BOMBAY, 1926-27

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

THE year opened with the formation of the Indian National Party, which had for its main object the attainment, as speedily as possible by all peaceful and legitimate means, of self-Government for India on the lines of the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire. The programme of the Party did not include mass civil disobedience nor the general non-payment of taxes but included responsive co-operation or opposition in the Legislatures as and when necessary. At the same time attempts were made to reconcile the differences, referred to in last year's report, that existed between the Swaraj Party and the Responsivists. A conference was held in April at Ahmedabad and a tentative agreement was arrived at, subject to confirmation by the All-India Congress Party. This agreement was not, however, ratified, owing to the wide divergence of opinion as to its exact scope and meaning. From June onwards the activities of all political parties were concentrated on the Elections for the Legislative Council, which were to take place in November. In the July-August session of the Council the Swarajist members, who had walked out in March 1926, returned to the Council in order to oppose two Bills, one of which had for its object the amendment of the Local Boards Act, 1923 so as to make the registration of marriages in the records of the Local Boards compulsory, and the other the amendment of the law relating to emoluments claimable by watandar Hindu priests. The first Bill was withdrawn but the second was passed after a long debate. The Swarajists also took part in the remaining debates of the session.

The Elections to the Bombay Legislative Council were keenly contested, for there were a number of candidates in the field from many parties, the latter including the Swaraj Party, the

Responsive Co-operation Party, the Independents (inside and outside the Congress), the Indian National Party and the Non-Brahmin Party. The results of the Elections were not decisive, because no party was able to obtain anything like an effective majority over any other party. Of the 52 members returned for Non-Muhammadan constituencies, as far as can be gathered, 10 belonged to the Swaraj Party, 1 was an Independent Swarajist, 10 were Responsivists and 11 Independent Responsivists. The Liberals numbered 7, the Non-Brahmin Party 11 and the Indian National Party 2. A Bombay Council Nationalist Party was formed composed almost exclusively of the Gujarati members. With the 10 Swarajists as associate members the party numbered about twenty. Another party was formed called the United Nationalist Party. This was made up of a majority of the members of the other parties, excluding the Non-Brahmin party, and numbered about 16. The declared objects of the two parties were practically the same, the chief difference being in the degree of opposition to be offered, the Bombay Council Nationalist Party proposing to oppose all proposals for fresh taxation, whereas the opposition of the United Nationalist Party was to be confined to "unjust" taxation. The Honourable Mr. A. M. K. Dehlavi was elected President.

Two new Ministers, the Honourable Diwan Bahadur H. D. Desai and the Honourable Dr. R. P. Paranjpye were appointed by His Excellency the Governor under section 52 of the Government of India Act, and the Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah was re-appointed. When Dr. Paranjpye vacated his seat on his appointment to the Secretary of State's Council, the Honourable Mr. G. B. Pradhan was nominated in his place.

Hindu-Moslem tension continued during the year and breaches of the peace occurred at Karachi and Andersul (in the Nasik District) in August and at Mardi (in the Ahmednagar District) in September, fortunately without loss of life. In Larkana on the 29th March there was a serious riot in which 58 Hindus and 11 Muhammadans received injuries, from which one Hindu died. Poona city was the scene of considerable tension between

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the Non-Brahmins and Brahmins, due mainly to the publication of objectionable pamphlets attacking the Brahmin community. A conciliation committee formed at the instance of the District Magistrate met with considerable success, and the Ganpati processions passed off without any untoward incident.

Finance.—In his speech introducing the Budget Estimates for 1927-28 the Hon'ble Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, Finance Member, pointed out that the situation disclosed by the Budgets of the past two years could not be said to be satisfactory. The Legislative Council, the Government, and, indeed, the whole Presidency had been at one in denouncing the Meston Settlement as being the root of all the financial difficulties. There was an impression abroad that greater and greater economy could be achieved in the matter of public expenditure but this view was contrary to facts and the experience of democracy. The activities of Government were expanding in directions which were not only not contemplated before but where the interference of Government was resented as objectionable. That the process of retrenchment could be carried on indefinitely and that it was possible to put a limit on public expenditure would, he thought, be belied by the experience of every honourable member who had taken part in municipal or local board administration. Sir Chunilal Mehta pointed out that not only was the Finance Department continuously cutting down expenditure but had appointed a Special Officer to examine every Department and suggest in what directions further economies were possible. The Hon'ble the Finance Member also dealt with the allegation that the Reserved Departments were allowed to obtain the major part of the revenues as their share, while the Transferred Departments were allowed to languish and starve. If the figures for 1921-22 were compared with those for 1927-28 it would be seen that while the expenditure on Transferred Departments had increased by over 44 lakhs, the expenditure on Reserved Departments had actually gone down by 15 lakhs. The expenditure on Education had increased from 172·5 lakhs to 207·6 lakhs, while Police showed a decrease of nearly 21 lakhs.

Sir Chunilal Mehta also gave some interesting figures comparing the relative taxation in various Provinces and the

manner in which the Provinces spent their money. While it was true that the *per capita* revenue was higher in Bombay than in other Provinces, it did not follow that the administration of Bombay was extravagant. The principal cause of the high *per capita* taxation was the large area administered and the comparative sparseness of the population which made inevitable the employment of a larger number of officers per unit of population than would otherwise be the case.

Another important factor was the high incidence of salaries on account of the cost of living. Whereas in the Imperial and Provincial Services the salaries were almost exactly similar in the three major Provinces, in the case of subordinate officials and menials the standard of pay was higher than in other Provinces and this was necessitated by the higher cost of living, a price which Bombay must pay for being a more urbanised and industrialised province than any in India. It was true that Bombay spent more on administration than other Provinces but he thought it was admitted that Bombay gave more and better services. Moreover in other Provinces the local bodies undertake many services and finance them from local revenues, whereas in Bombay those services are undertaken by Government or mainly financed by them. In Bombay out of the total expenditure of 154 lakhs by all the District Local Boards Government contributed no less than 101 lakhs or 66 per cent. In Madras Government contributed only 30 per cent., in Bengal 24 per cent., and in the United Provinces 42 per cent. No better illustration could be found of the considerations which made for high cost of administration in the Bombay Presidency than the expenditure per head of the District Municipalities in the major Provinces excluding the capital cities. Exclusive of grants from Government and representing expenditure met solely from local taxation, the *per capita* expenditure of District Municipalities was, in Bombay Rs. 7·2, in Madras Rs. 4·1, in Bengal Rs. 3·2 and in the United Provinces Rs. 4·5. The expenditure in these areas is controlled by almost wholly elected municipal councillors and proves the necessity for higher cost of administration in this Presidency.

Another very interesting section of the Finance Member's speech is that which dealt with the amount of the expenditure which was under the control of the Bombay Government. Taking 1,585 lakhs expenditure provided in the current year's budget, expenditure of an obligatory nature which Government must discharge amounted to no less than 492 lakhs, and this included such items as Excise Compensation to the Indian States, interest on Irrigation and other Debt, Sinking Funds, Assessment of Alienated Lands, Famine Insurance Fund, Superannuation Allowances, Contributions to the Government of India, making in all 492 lakhs. Then there were grants to local bodies for Primary Education which amounted to 120¾ lakhs, grants to the Universities, Colleges and Schools which amounted to over 35 lakhs, and grants for Public Health and Medical purposes and for Civil Works, chiefly to local bodies, totalling in all to 190 lakhs. Altogether, out of an expenditure of 1,585 lakhs there were items which either could not be avoided or which it was not desirable should be reduced amounting to 754 lakhs. Adding to that 99 lakhs paid to the All-India Services, including Members of Council and High Court Judges, 7 crores were left as the amount over which the Government had control.

Turning to the Budget for 1926-27, the Estimates under the most important revenue head of Land Revenue stood at 605 lakhs, including 72 lakhs under Irrigation. The actuals, however, amounted to only 467 lakhs under Land Revenue *plus* 70 lakhs under Irrigation, a total of 537 lakhs, a total decrease compared with the previous year of 67 lakhs, due chiefly to failure of *kharif* crops in Gujarat and of *rabi* crops in the Deccan and the Karnatak districts. Destruction by locusts in certain parts of Sind was a contributing factor.

The Legislative Council had sanctioned for one year only the increases in Stamp Duties under the Indian Stamp Bombay Amendment Act of 1922, and the Bill to enhance Court Fees which had been rejected by the Council in the previous year, was expected to bring in an additional revenue of 10 lakhs. The anticipated revenue was not realised and the total revenue under Stamps was Rs. 1,67,57,000 as compared with Rs. 1,75,53,000 in the previous year.

In the next important head of revenue, Excise, there was a drop of 26 lakhs, the receipts amounting to 409½ lakhs instead of 435½ lakhs, the estimated revenue, and 415½ lakhs, the revenue for the previous year. Forest revenue showed a slight improvement, the actuals, 76½ lakhs, being 2½ lakhs above the estimate and 1¼ lakhs above the previous year's receipts. Depression in trade was responsible for a reduction of 1 lakh under Registration against the budgetted figure of 13 lakhs; while the Entertainments Duty and the Totalisator Betting Tax brought in a revenue of 19½ lakhs as compared with the budget estimate of 25 lakhs.

On the Expenditure side the most important items, apart from interest, were Education 201 lakhs, an increase of 3½ lakhs; General Administration 227¾ lakhs, a reduction of a lakh, and Police 170¼ lakhs, a reduction of nearly 2 lakhs. Civil Works showed an increased expenditure of 29 lakhs as compared with the previous year, owing to the decision to meet all expenditure on building schemes below 5 lakhs from ordinary revenue instead of from borrowed money. The report of the Advisory Committee on the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme showed that there would be a loss of 300 lakhs and Government decided to provide annually from the General Revenues a sum of 20 lakhs, representing interest and sinking fund on a 60 years' basis.

Trade and Commerce.—The aggregate value of the foreign trade (private) of the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, again declined by Rs. 51·56 crores to Rs. 183·95 crores. If treasure be excluded, Bombay's foreign trade decreased by Rs. 33·83 crores to Rs. 147·47 crores. The two trade factors of prime importance were external. One was the slump in raw cotton prices caused by a huge American crop, which followed on the record crop of the preceding year and left that record far behind, and the other was the dislocation of trade resulting from the prolonged and disastrous coal strike in the United Kingdom. The repercussions of the first factor on Bombay's staple export trade in raw cotton were extraordinary, and were intensified by the fact that the Indian crop of 1926 was late and short, and because Indian prices stubbornly remained above American parity. The result was that exports of Indian cotton,

which normally represent two-thirds of the total value of Bombay's exports, contracted seriously in quantity, and even more seriously in value. The value actually declined by Rs. 22¼ crores, but nearly Rs. 8 crores of this loss were the result of lower prices. And not only did Bombay ship less cotton; she actually imported some 30,000 tons of American low grade cotton, and was still busily importing it when the fiscal year closed.

The influence of the coal strike was chiefly reflected in the smaller arrivals of the products of England's heavy industries, notably iron and steel, but general trade with the United Kingdom was also bound to suffer and did suffer. It is therefore at first sight remarkable that the United Kingdom should have regained the first place in the total trade of Bombay, which she had lost in the previous year to Japan. Unfortunately this was not due to any improvement in the trade with the United Kingdom, but to the heavy decline in the value of the cotton shipped to Japan.

Imports of merchandise fell again by Rs. 2·11 crores to Rs. 76·88 crores, a decline of 3 per cent. The decrease in value was most marked in cotton manufactures, metals and ores, machinery and millwork, oils and railway plant and rolling stock. Coal, spices, precious stones and pearls unset, sugar, glass and glassware, cotton twist and yarn, rubber, raw wool and matches also recorded noticeable decreases. On the other hand there were noticeable expansions in artificial silk, raw cotton, silk manufactures, tobacco, chemicals, drugs and medicines, dyeing and tanning substances, instruments and apparatus, motor cars and motor cycles, provisions, liquors and tea.

The apparent decline in the import trade represents lower price levels rather than a contraction of volume; and lower prices should normally stimulate imports.

Exports of Indian produce and manufactures declined, for the third year in succession, by Rs. 29·52 crores to Rs. 65·22 crores. This decrease was shared by all the principal articles with the exception of cotton manufactures, cotton twist and yarn and hides and skins, the chief reason for the heavy fall being the slump both in prices and shipments of raw cotton.

A feature of the export trade was that despite falling prices, exports of yarn advanced by nearly 10 million lb. and by Rs. 15¾ lakhs, while despatches of piece-goods, owing to a great expansion of coloured goods, increased by 30 million yards and Rs. 1·11 crores.

The gross receipts collected by the Bombay Custom House declined from Rs. 12 crores 72 lakhs to Rs. 12 crores 16½ lakhs. These figures exclude collections on account of various cesses such as the cotton cess. The ratio of true expenditure to true revenue was 1·25 per cent.

The aggregate value of the coasting trade fell by Rs. 8·16 crores to Rs. 65·48 crores mainly as a result of smaller arrivals of raw cotton from Kathiawar, Sind, Cutch and the Southern Maratha Country *via* Goa, and of rice, kerosene oil and teak wood from Burma. Shipments of cotton piece-goods and cotton twist and yarn to Bengal and Burma and of cotton twist and yarn to Madras, also showed noticeable decreases. On the other hand arrivals of spices from Travancore, British ports within the Presidency and Madras, and shipments of jowar and bajri to Kathiawar and of rice to British ports within the Presidency, showed appreciable increases.

The entire maritime trade of the Province of Sind amounted to Rs. 75 crores 43 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 8 crores 61 lakhs or 10 per cent. as compared with the previous year, which itself was one of great depression. The most discouraging feature in regard to foreign trade was the excess of imports over exports, the share of the former in the total value having risen to 54 per cent. from 44 per cent. and that of the latter being only 46 per cent. as against 56 per cent. last year.

Agriculture.—The distribution of the rains during the agricultural season was more than usually uneven and cultivators experienced many periods of anxiety alternated with optimism. Generally speaking, so far as the *kharif* crops were concerned the season was satisfactory throughout the Konkan and the West of the Deccan and the Karnatak, fairly satisfactory in Gujarat and Khandesh and unsatisfactory in the East Deccan and East Karnatak, which are not important *kharif* areas. As regards the *rabi* crops, no district reported a really first

class season but in most of Gujarat and Khandesh, conditions were fairly good. In East Deccan and Karnatak, the most important *rabi* area of the Presidency, the season was definitely bad. In Sind the season was not up to the average, for the *rabi* crops suffered from locusts and in some cases from frost. On the whole, however, the season was decidedly better than the year before. In the Bombay Presidency proper, however, there was an extension of 386,000 acres in the gross cropped area, Gujarat being responsible for 218,000 acres and the Deccan, excluding Ahmednagar, for 198,000 acres. The area cropped twice showed an extension of 178,000 acres, the increase being shared by all the Divisions, Gujarat predominating with an increase of 145,000 acres. In Sind the gross cropped area and the area cropped more than once showed an increase of 393,000 and 62,000 acres respectively. The gross cropped area in the Presidency proper was 28,212,000 acres and in Sind 4,653,000 acres. The area under food crops in the Bombay Presidency proper rose by 1,309,000 acres to 19,765,000 acres, a percentage increase of 7·1 over the previous year, and slightly above the average. Jowari, the most extensively cultivated of all the food crops, showed a decline of 412,000 acres, the actual figure being 7,407,000 acres. The rest of the cereals and pulses,—bajri, rice, wheat, gram, etc., all showed increases. All the non-food crops registered decreases, the total acreage (8,447,000) being nearly 10 per cent. less than in the previous year, although it was still substantially above the average. The most marked decline occurred in cotton, which showed a curtailment in area of 848,000 acres, 16·6 per cent. below the previous year, the fall in price and the unfavourable character of the season in the principal cotton tracts both contributing to this decrease.

In Sind also, cotton declined by 9·6 per cent., the total acreage devoted to this crop being 326,000, a drop of 36,000 acres; but the area under all crops—both food and non-food—rose considerably above the previous year. Prices for agricultural products were either stationary or showed a downward tendency, the fall being specially marked in the case of cotton and *gul*.

Department of Agriculture.—The most important work with which the Department was associated during the year

was the first Presidency Agricultural Show held in Poona in October 1926. Government contributed half a lakh of rupees to the Exhibition and one of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture was the Secretary of the Show, the main object of which was to represent the crops, the agricultural activities and the live stock of the Presidency and to show how production could be increased and improvements effected in various ways. During the ten days the Exhibition was open it was visited by over 200,000 people from all parts of the Presidency. The Royal Commission on Agriculture held its first sitting in Poona while the Show was in progress and paid several visits to it.

The Department continued its usual work of improving the quality and quantity of the produce of the Presidency. The popularity of groundnuts as a crop, based on the introduction of a small high oil-bearing type by the Agricultural Department, continued and every propaganda measure is being taken to ensure that the types grown are kept pure. High-yielding strains of rice are being developed and their use is becoming more extensive. The improvement of cotton has always been one of the chief items of research and development of the Agricultural Department and progress was made during the year in every division. Two problems which have engaged the attention of the Department research workers, namely, the breeding of a wilt resistant cotton for the Kumpta tract and the production of a long staple cotton suitable for the Dharwar-American tract seem to have been solved and types have been fixed with the desired qualities. Research is now being undertaken to find out the types suited to the conditions which will prevail after the Sukkur Barrage is established. Work on the improvement of wheat continued, the biggest success having been obtained in Sind. In the Deccan it has not been possible to develop or introduce strains which can be recommended on the very large scale that is the case with other crops. The great success attained last year by a new tobacco in Gujarat was emphasised in the current year when the demand for seed was phenomenal. This is not surprising when it is realised that it gives an extra value of Rs. 50 per acre. A scheme for multiplication of the seed supply has been worked out. The

improvement of Kharif jowar, the premier grain crop in the Presidency, is an accomplished fact in three different centres. A seed given out by the Department, yielding from 12 to 24 per cent. more than the corresponding local types, is becoming popular. The improvement of rabi jowar has made less progress.

Investigation into the problems of improvements in tillage and implements continues and there is a growing demand for motor tractors. The dry-farming station of the Department, which was established in 1924, has now worked out methods which have given remarkably increased yields of grain without any extra out-of-pocket cost but only increased work on the part of the cultivator, while the system of ridge cultivation, especially designed for the deep black soils of Lower Gujarat, is rapidly extending in the Surat District. One of the most remarkable improvements in recent years is the extension of the use of concentrated manures in the Presidency, most notably in the irrigated tracts. An extensive series of experiments have shown the very great advantage of concentrated manures in the growing of cotton. Locusts caused considerable damage to crops, about 82,000 acres in Sind and 15,000 acres in Kathiawar and Gujarat being attacked. The attack was at its worst everywhere in December and died out in February.

Fair progress was recorded in the work of improving the cattle of the Presidency, and the improvement made possible by the use of premium bulls was clearly demonstrated at the Agricultural Show. The possibilities of the extension of the Poultry industry in the precarious tracts have been studied and seem to be favourable. A Bombay Poultry Association was established during the year and held its first show in connection with the Presidency Agricultural Show. A beginning has been made with the experimental work in connection with Sind and especially of that portion concentrated at the Sakrand Experimental Station and it seems probable that by the time the Sukkur Barrage water is available a very great deal more will be known about the best way of developing the Barrage areas and of the types of crops which will give the best returns and the best methods of avoiding the difficulties, notably waterlogging and salt, which are almost certain to arise.

The Poona Agricultural College was as popular as ever, the total number of students now on the roll being 220. The demand for admission from all parts of India continued, but admission of students outside the Presidency has been limited to about 10 per cent. of the total in the first year's class.

The expenditure on the Department amounted to Rs. 16·46 lakhs and receipts to Rs. 2·78 lakhs.

Instruction.—Continued progress in Education was reported during the year. An increase of 479 in the number of educational institutions and in the number of pupils by 74,614 brought the total numbers up to 16,211 and 1,148,714. The percentage of male scholars under instruction to the total male population was 9·12, the figure for females being 2·43, both higher than in the previous year. In the Presidency there are 26,731 towns and villages, of which 10,244 possess schools, the average area served by each school being 12·1 square miles. The total expenditure on Public Instruction showed a substantial increase of over 50 lakhs, the total being 381½ lakhs. Government funds again contributed the major portion of the expenditure, namely, 51·9 per cent. Local Board funds contributed 18·7 per cent., fees came to 17·4 per cent., and other sources to ·12 per cent. Primary schools absorbed rather more than half the total expenditure, namely, Rs. 198½ lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, instruction and repairs. There was a large increase in the number of candidates for the School Leaving Examination, no fewer than 7,483 students, an increase of 1,411, sitting for the Examination, of whom 41·3 per cent. passed. There were 904 successful candidates at the B.A. Examination, an increase of 306 over the preceding year, of whom 23 took First Class Honours and 217 Second Class Honours. In the B.Sc. Examination 186 candidates were successful out of 329 examined. Despite the increase in the number of pupils receiving instruction, the number of students in the 15 Arts Colleges in the Presidency decreased by 401 to 7,027, of whom 382 were women. The number of students in the Law Colleges, however, rose by 28 to 498 in Bombay, and by 29 to 467 in Poona. The number of students receiving instruction in Commerce rose by 16 to 269 and there was a

small increase of 5 in the number of those receiving instruction in Engineering, namely, 327. An increase in the number of students at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, was also recorded, the number being 541. Technical and Industrial schools increased by 2, but the number of pupils showed a substantial increase of 628 to 2,833. The number of Secondary Schools also increased and so did the pupils, who now number over 100,000, of whom nearly 13,000 are girls. In Primary schools the number of girls under instruction was 198,604, an increase of 16,518; the number of boys 851,483, an increase of 61,286. There are 15 Training Institutions in the Presidency for men and 18 for women, with 1,665 pupils, of whom 666 are women. The total number of Muhammadans under instruction increased by 14,376 to 187,919, of whom 26,562 were in girls' schools. There are nearly 451,000 Intermediate Hindus receiving instruction and 121,555 members of the Backward Classes, including 61,600 of the Depressed Classes.

Law and Justice.—Thirteen Acts were passed by the Legislative Council during the year. Most of them were amendments of existing Acts designed to remove anomalies or to remedy defects which the working of the Acts had shown to be necessary. The most important of these legislative enactments were the following :—

Act No. XVIII of 1925 (An Act to give wider powers in the management of municipal affairs in certain cities) was passed with the object of providing a more adequate basis for municipal administration in larger cities of the Bombay Presidency.

Act No. XIX of 1925 amended the Bombay District Police Act of 1890 by imposing a restriction on the absolute power which vested in Government to direct the imposition of a tax or rate to defray the cost of additional police employed in any local area which appeared to be in a disturbed or dangerous state.

The Bombay Civil Courts Act of 1869 was amended by extending to the courts of First Class Subordinate Judges the jurisdiction in respect of official suits which hitherto had been restricted to the District Courts. This change had been rendered particularly urgent owing to the assumption by

Government of the administration of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway which had thrown a considerable amount of petty work on the District Courts.

Power to constitute a Chief Court for the province of Sind was taken by Act No. VII and the law relating to the District and Subordinate Courts in that province consolidated.

In the Bombay Presidency it had been held that a watandar priest or *joshi* can obtain a decree for his customary emoluments, though, as a matter of fact, his services for performing the ceremonies may not be requisitioned by a Hindu. This state of the law had caused considerable annoyance to non-Brahmin Hindus in the Presidency who resented being forced by the law courts to pay for services which they neither desired nor utilised. Act No. XI of 1926 did away with this grievance.

There were 12 private Bills introduced into the Legislative Council. In two of them the motions for first reading were lost : one was withdrawn : three lapsed owing to the dissolution of the Council and six were only published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* and did not reach their next stage during the period under report.

Four Resolutions by non-official members were moved during the year, all of which were carried, two of them in spite of the opposition of Government.

There were over 241,000 suits for disposal in the Civil Courts of the Presidency during the year. Of these more than 188,000 were before the mofussil courts, nearly 53,000 in the City Courts and 41,000 in the Presidency Court of Small Causes. The number of suits instituted in the mofussil courts was 128,000, an increase of 3,769 on the figure of the preceding year. The total value of suits instituted during the year amounted to over 492 lakhs. East Khandesh, Nasik, Surat and Sholapur, all showed substantial increases in the number of suits instituted. East Khandesh recorded nearly 14,000 institutions, of which 12,000 were money suits. In no other district, except Poona and Nasik, did institutions exceed 10,000. The total number of suits disposed of by the mofussil courts was 128,515. The High Court disposed of 3,621 suits during the year and 2,766

were left pending. The Bombay Small Causes Court disposed of 35,137. The High Court disposed of 1,167 appeals.

As regards Criminal Justice, the number of offences dealt with by all classes of criminal courts in the Presidency was over 212,000 involving the trial of more than 263,000 persons. Of these 79,000 were acquitted and 171,000 were convicted. The Sessions Courts dealt with 662 offences involving 1,809 persons, of whom 968 were convicted. The death sentence was passed on 26 persons : transportation or penal servitude on 149 : while 775 were sentenced to imprisonment. The total amount of fines imposed by all the courts was nearly 12¾ lakhs, of which more than 10¼ lakhs were realised.

Police and Crime.—For the Police the year under report was, on the whole, one of comparative quiet, although communal tension over the question of music before mosques gave some anxiety to the police, because complications often arise where they are least expected. For the first time during the last six years non-cognisable crime showed a pronounced decrease, but the situation with regard to cognisable crime was not so favourable, small increases being recorded during the year both under this head and in serious reported crime. No special reason can be assigned for the slow but steady rise in crime during the past three years. The total number of reported cases of serious crime was 23,839 as against 23,713 in the previous year. There was an increase in murders, attempts at murder, and culpable homicide, but dacoities decreased by 17 and, taking robberies and dacoities together, the incidence of this form of crime was the lowest recorded during the last five years. This satisfactory result was due, to a great extent, to the successful efforts of the Police during the past three years in rounding up a number of important gangs of dacoits and outlaws. The number of burglaries was the lowest during the quinquennium, the decrease being chiefly noticeable in Sind. The incidence of total reported cognisable crime under the Indian Penal Code per thousand of the population was 1·78 as against 1·77 for 1925, the figures for the Presidency being 1·43 and for Sind 3·51. The figures for serious crime were 1·05 for the Presidency proper and 2·49 for

Sind. The real cognisable crime disposed of during the year amounted to 31,709 cases, an increase of 840. The total number of undetected cases during the year increased by 254 to 11,040. In this connection the Inspector General of Police points out that the heavy reduction in Police Stations, outposts and personnel that has been the inevitable result of the financial stress from which the Presidency has suffered of late years has connoted a less rigid control over the criminal fraternity, while the stoppage of patrolling has deprived the Police Station Officer of vital information in regard to what is going on in his charge and has left him less fitted to deal with the prevention and detection of crime. The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was nearly 89. During the year 4,719 convicted persons were identified as having been previously convicted and 1,305 were classed as habitual offenders. Efforts are being made, and have consistently been made for many years, to reduce the chances of the casual criminal developing into a habitual, some measures adopted to this end being increased facilities for release on bail, the infliction of fines, wherever possible, instead of imprisonment, and careful segregation in jail from the influence of habituals. A wide extension of the principle of release of the first offender on probation is under consideration.

The total strength of the police in the Presidency including Sind and the Railways stood at 1,090 officers and 22,319 men, and the total cost amounted to 134·34 lakhs. The average cost of a Policeman decreased from Rs. 552-7-0 to Rs. 550-1-6. There was one policeman to every 5·67 square miles and 773 persons.

Bombay City Police.—As was the case with their mofussil colleagues, the Bombay City Police had a quiet year from the police point of view. There were no strikes on a large scale, there was no Pathan scare, there was no communal discord, and no great political excitement, but there was a rise in police morale and a drop in crime, the sort of year, as the Commissioner of Police remarks in his Annual Report, that the police hope for but do not often see. A gratifying fall in crime under the Indian Penal Code was recorded during the year, a drop of

1,649 to 7,954, the lowest total recorded since the year 1912. Compared with the year 1920, the present high water mark in crime, there was a reduction of over 30 per cent. A decrease of nearly 4,000 in the total number of cognisable offences under Special and Local Laws was mainly due to the licensing of hawkers by the Municipality and an agreement by the police with the municipal authorities that the hawkers should be allowed to ply their trades in certain localities. There were in all 58 cases of murder and attempts at murder, including 11 pending from the previous year. Of these 23 ended in conviction, 7 in acquittal and 16 remained undetected. Of the 47 murders and attempted murders reported during the year, 10 were cases of infanticide. The percentage of non-detected cases works out at 3·52 against 4·14 in the previous year for all classes of cases. The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in police cognisable cases amounted to 17¼ lakhs, of which nearly 10 lakhs was recovered, the percentage of recovery being more than twice as high as in 1925, and the highest recorded since 1907. The amount of property stolen was the lowest for eight years.

The combined system of patrols and fixed posts introduced by the Commissioner was a remarkable success, although there were not sufficient men for the full operation of the scheme. A flying squad is sent out in each section for a certain number of hours each night: the men are in plain clothes and are under the control of a Sergeant or Sub-Inspector or officer of higher rank. No body knows at what time they are to go out, except the officer in command, nor in what part of the section they are to operate. As the thief or burglar is no longer able to obtain definite information of the movements of this patrol and as he no longer gets any warning of danger by seeing a policeman in uniform approaching him, he is now frequently caught in the streets and sometimes with the property on him.

The total strength of the police including officers is 3,832 and its total cost about Rs. 33,60,000.

The traffic problem continues to give additional work to the City Police. More than 11,000 motor vehicles were running in Bombay City, including 800 motor lorries, while there was

an increase of 114 in the number of taxis. Motor accidents numbered nearly 2,000, an increase of 144. Fifty-two of them were fatal. Altogether 77 persons were killed in street accidents and 2,324 injured. Increasing attention is being given by the police to the regulation of traffic and policemen have been systematically trained in this part of their duties and are kept for definite periods on traffic duty alone.

Public Health.—The health history of the Presidency from 1918, the year of the influenza pandemic, was, judged by the total mortality figures, a history of steady progress up to 1922, when the death-rate was the lowest recorded (23·61). Thereafter there was a gradual return to the low standard which normally prevailed. The year 1925 showed a low death-rate of 23·66 but the figure for 1926, 28·55, indicates a return to the 1911-1915 mean of 27·56. The setback is mainly due to four factors—fevers, dysentery, diarrhœa, respiratory diseases and " other causes." Thirty-three per cent. of the increase in the total mortality for the previous year was in deaths of infants. The year also proved unhealthy for older people aged 60 and over. The chief epidemic diseases—cholera, small-pox, plague and influenza combined—showed a reduction of thirty per cent. There is reason to believe that influenza was more prevalent in 1925, in a milder form generally but, in two or three fortunately very localised areas, with a virulence reminiscent of the pandemic of 1918. Over 220,000 deaths were registered as due to fevers, Gujarat recording the highest increase. The urban death-rate was 7·84 and the rural 12·52. Malaria was responsible for over 54,000 deaths, Sind showing over 75 per cent. The death-rate for malaria for the Presidency as a whole was 2·83 as against 2·53 in 1925. Excluding Sind, the rate was 1·18, the rural death-rate being nearly three times as high as the urban. Twenty-nine subordinate medical service officers were appointed on special duty in regard to anti-malarial measures, while Government sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for the free distribution of quinine, Rs. 55,000 for the sale of quinine at post offices and Rs. 20,200 for the cheap sale of quinine treatments. The drug is advancing in popularity among the people, pills or tablets being naturally preferred to powder. The total number of deaths

from all causes registered was 547,264, the death-rate for rural and urban areas for the Presidency being 27·98 and 31·22. The highest death-rate was recorded by Broach (41·61) and the lowest by the Bombay Suburban Division (19·78).

The improvement in the figures for infant mortality recorded in last year's report received a setback during the year for there were 138,213 deaths among infants under 12 months, a ratio of 194·63 per thousand registered births against 162·01 in 1925. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 8·5 per thousand, and the year showed the highest number of births recorded for 10 years, the birth-rate for the year being 37·05 against 34·66 during the previous year. It is interesting to note that this increase in the birth-rate has been general throughout India, except in Bengal.

The total number of deaths from plague showed a decrease, while the Presidency was practically free from cholera, only 73 deaths having occurred. Small-pox deaths also showed a decrease.

Both the number of hospitals and dispensaries and the number of patients treated in them showed substantial increases during the year, the latter by 13 per cent. to 3,205,000. The Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital Fund which was established in December 1925 with the object of adding substantially to the existing hospital accommodation in the City of Bombay, made satisfactory progress. Funds have already been made available for the first year's programme and the Fund itself is prepared with its share of the cost for the second year's programme.

Salt.—Nearly 12½ million maunds of salt were issued by the Salt Department during the year, of which 9,578,000 came from the sea salt works and 2,516,000 from the salt works in the Rann of Cutch where the salt is obtained from brine wells. The remainder was imported salt, amounting to 361,000 maunds.

The total revenue amounted to over 152¼ lakhs, an increase of nearly 7¾ lakhs over the previous year. The actual number of salt works administered by the Salt Department was 419 and they produced during the year 11,390,000 maunds of salt. The per capita issues for consumption in the Presidency proper slightly decreased, the average being 13·20 lbs. per head of the

population as compared with 13·63 lbs. in the previous year. The variations in the market prices during the year were trivial and prices now appear to have become stabilised.

Excise.—The consumption of country spirit continued steadily to decline. It fell short of the fixed ration everywhere and that too in spite of a further reduction over the previous year's ration by 5 per cent. in the mofussil and 10 per cent. in Bombay City. Since the year 1919-20 the total reduction in consumption in the whole Presidency has amounted to 1,445,000 proof gallons or over 50 per cent., and during the same period 362 shops have been closed. Diminishing consumption means diminishing revenues and the total loss in revenue from country spirit for 1926-27 was Rs. 26,17,000. Since 1919-20 the aggregate reduction in revenue has amounted to Rs. 53,60,000.

The progress towards total prohibition has not achieved the results that were hoped for, because the fall in consumption does not represent a radical change in the habits and inclinations of the population. Failing to obtain country spirit at the price which they can afford, people resort to cheap foreign liquor, in spite of the license fees having been more than doubled. Smuggling of country spirit is also on the increase and there has been an enormous increase in the number of cases of illicit distillation facilitated by the ease with which the bases of country spirit are obtainable. Such cases were few and far between when country spirit was cheap. Not only are they now of more frequent occurrence but illicit distillation is carried on on a more extensive and organised scale than ever before. In some districts, as for example, East and West Khandesh, where the drink habit is deeply ingrained in the people, the excise policy has created problems of administration which Government cannot but view with grave concern. Respect for law and for authority is being undermined and there are frequent conflicts between the Bhils and the authorities in the attempts of the latter to prevent illicit distillation and smuggling. This results in a general demoralisation of the Bhil population and in a frustration of the efforts which are steadily being made to ameliorate their condition and to convert them into peaceful

and law abiding citizens. There are also indications of similar problems which will soon have to be faced in other districts, if the present excise policy is unflinchingly pursued without regard to any other consideration. Want of co-operation of the general public with the officers of the Excise Department made detection of this form of crime increasingly difficult.

Turning to the figures for the year, the consumption of foreign liquor rose from 774,000 to 850,000 gallons, although in Sind there was a fall of 37,000 gallons. The revenue from foreign liquor increased by Rs. 2,18,000 in the Presidency proper but in Sind it fell by just over Rs. 1 lakh. The total revenue from this source has increased by over Rs. 11½ lakhs since 1919-20. The consumption of ganja and bhang showed some decrease, the total revenue being just over Rs. 27½ lakhs. There was a further fall in the sales of opium but the decrease in the sales of opium and other intoxicating drugs has unfortunately not been due wholly to legitimate causes, as illicit opium is reported to find its way into the city of Bombay and to be sold at cheaper rates.

The total excise revenue for the year amounted to just under Rs. 361 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 28½ lakhs over the previous year. Expenditure increased by Rs. 2 lakhs to 25¼ lakhs.

There were nearly 6,000 offences against the Abkari law in the Presidency proper, over 700 more than in the previous year.

Forests.—The Department was able to record a financially successful year and good progress was made with works of development and improvement. The area under "Forests" in the Presidency is 15,000 square miles, representing roughly 12 per cent. of the entire area of the Presidency, and it produced a gross revenue of 76·56 lakhs, the expenditure amounting to 43·86 lakhs. The gross revenue was 1·30 lakhs higher than in the previous year and 3·93 lakhs above the average of the preceding five years. Work was in progress on 117 miles of new roads and repairs were carried out on 935 miles of old roads. Much good timber is locked up in the teak forests of the Dangs and Peint which cannot be extracted without good metalled roads, which are needed to stand heavy timber traffic.

Offences against the forest laws increased by 2,500 to nearly 21,000. The pecuniary loss as the result of forest offences is enormous, the Chief Conservator's estimate being 31 lakhs. The damage was mainly done by the villagers living in the vicinity of the forests who are given free and concession grants to the extent of over 10 lakhs. Only 14 per cent. of the forest area is closed to all animals for the whole year, while 27·20 per cent. is open to all animals for the whole year and 56·76 per cent. to all animals except browsers for the whole year. Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands and grazing fees were collected to the amount of 5·31 lakhs, the value at full rates being 21·37 lakhs. Timber and fuel to the value of over 31½ lakhs were removed by consumers and purchasers during the year, together with minor produce valued at 22½ lakhs. Nearly 55¾ million cubic feet of forest produce were removed during the year, of which 4,638,000 cubic feet were extracted departmentally.

Large quantities of grass were stored at three depôts under the famine fodder schemes financed from famine funds bringing the amount stored to 159¼ lakhs of lbs.

Co-operative Movement.—Notwithstanding the very low prices of cotton and gur which prevailed during the year and the damage done to the crops in certain areas by rain and locusts, the general progress of the Co-operative Movement was steadily maintained during the year. The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 3,615 to 4,022 and the working capital from 293 lakhs to 346 lakhs. This progress was all the more satisfactory because it was not artificially fostered. It was spontaneous and in spite of the discouragement given by the Co-operative Department to the formation of new societies which held out no promise of eventual success.

The societies in Sind continued to work satisfactorily but it was noted with regret that the societies in the Dharwar District and the canal societies in the Deccan showed signs of deterioration and that in the Karnatik, which was once the main centre of co-operative activity, the spirit of co-operation is on the wane, chiefly owing to the bitterness of party strife and to the deliberate disregard of the societies' bye-laws by the members. A disquieting

feature of the year was the large increase in the unauthorised arrears which rose from 36 lakhs to 82 lakhs, or 29 per cent. of the outstandings. The number of agricultural non-credit societies increased by only eleven during the year. The cotton sale societies sold cotton of the total value of 41¾ lakhs. The Supervising and Guaranteeing Unions, an important link in the chain of the Co-operative Movement, increased slightly during the year and their activities now cover about half the Presidency and Sind. The Provincial Co-operative Bank continued to make progress and opened three branches, making a total of 16. The increase in the working capital of the movement continued to be remarkable. It rose from 8¾ crores to 10¼ crores during the year, this large increase being mainly due to the attraction of surplus capital towards such societies owing to the comparatively high rates of interest which were offered. Opportunity was taken to reduce the rate of interest on deposits. The Co-operative section at the Poona Agricultural Show was one of the most largely attended. The Central Co-operative Institute did useful work in connection with propaganda and training and it is hoped that it will add to its usefulness by assisting, in course of time, non-credit societies with expert advice, of which they are badly in need and for want of which they are now for the most part moribund. That the Co-operative Movement as a whole has taken firm root and secured the general confidence is evident from the figures given above.

Public Works.—Steady progress continued on the Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction, a scheme which it is estimated will cost 1,835 lakhs, and provides for the construction of a barrage across the Indus three miles below the gorge at Sukkur with seven canals commanding about 7½ million acres which would enable over five million acres of crops to be irrigated annually. The total length of canals and branches is nearly 1,600 miles and that of distributaries 3,700 miles. The work of excavation of the main canals by dragline excavators and manual labour proceeded over 17 crores cubic feet in the North-Western Circle, about 19 crores cubic feet in the Western Circle, 23½ crores cubic feet in the Rohri Canal Circle and 10 crores cubic feet

in the Eastern Nara Circle, having been excavated. In the Deccan satisfactory progress was made on irrigation works. The opening ceremony of the Wilson Dam at Bhandara was performed by His Excellency the Governor in December 1926. The Pravara Canals are now in full operation and irrigation is developing rapidly. The Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar is now practically completed and the existing Nira Left Bank Canal is being remodelled so as to take full advantage of the extra storage at Bhatgar during the development of irrigation on the new Right Bank Canal on which good progress was also made. Investigations were made for additional storage works for the Godavari Canals, while a project was under investigation for improving the supply from Lake Fife which supplies water to Poona for domestic purposes and for cultivation on the two Mutha Canals.

Bombay Development Department.—During the year the failure of the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme to justify the hopes that were held out at its inception led to a great deal of public interest in it and three Committees investigated and reported on certain features of the scheme. The first of these Committees was appointed in April 1926 to check and revise the estimates on which the conclusions of the Advisory Committee, which issued its report in January 1926, had to a large extent been based. The second Committee was appointed in June 1926 to consider what, if any, further portion of the scheme could be undertaken with reasonable prospect of reducing the present loss. In July 1926 the Government of India appointed a Committee of Enquiry, presided over by Sir Grimwood Mears, to enquire into the history of the inception and conduct of the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and to make recommendations as regards future operations. The Mears Committee pointed out that the inability of the dredger to give the required output had been the chief cause of failure and had had a disastrous effect on the financial prospects of the scheme. They recommended, as regards future operations, the completion of Block 8, the reclamation of the foreshore

portion along Blocks 3, 4, 5 and 6 to an average width of 300 feet and the development of this strip as soon as completed and Blocks 1, 2 and 7 gradually as land was taken up.

Government was not able to agree to these recommendations and four schemes were prepared and submitted to the Legislative Council for winding up the operations which were in progress in the beginning of 1927. One provided for the completion of blocks 1, 2, 7 and 8 and for linking blocks 2 and 7 with a road and promenade along the foreshore. A second scheme provided for the reclamation of block 6 in addition to blocks 1, 2, 7 and 8 and for connecting blocks 2 and 6 with a road and promenade as in the first scheme. A third scheme was a slight modification of the third and fourth provided for carrying out the proposals of the Mears Committee. In the budget debate the Council decided to carry out the first scheme and the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme was therefore limited to the completion of blocks 1, 2, 7 and 8 and the linking of blocks 2 and 7 with a road and promenade along the foreshore.

Pumping operations during the working season of 1926-27 commenced in the middle of October with the pumping of material into block 7, working two shifts of 12 hours each per day. Good progress had been made when on the 23rd December the main pumping engine of the dredger "Sir George Lloyd" raced badly, seriously damaging the machinery to such an extent as to render the dredger entirely unworkable. The dredger "Kalu" was brought round from Back Bay, where she was pumping into block 1 and by the middle of May the filling of block 7 with dredged material had been completed, over two million cubic yards having been dredged. During the year about 880,000 tons of dry filling was brought in, the bulk of which was put into block 8 which is to be taken over by the Military authorities when completed. About 80,000 square yards in block 1 was filled in by building rubbish, etc., collected by motor lorries and tipped into the block.

Twenty-five new chawls in the Industrial Housing Scheme were opened for occupation by the working classes. Rents were substantially reduced and at the close of the year stood at

Rs. 7 at Naigaum and Rs. 5 at Worli. The total rents collected for all chawls amounted to Rs. 4,94,000, an increase of nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs over the previous year.

The activities in departmental schemes in the suburban areas were at a standstill during the year, except for water-supply schemes and such roads as it was necessary to construct to supply the demand for plots for residential purposes at Khar and Chembur. The Kurla-Trombay Railway was handed over during the year to the G. I. P. Railway under an agreement approved by Government.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

THE territories under the rule of Indian Princes and Chiefs in political relations with the Government of Bombay extend over an area of 28,562 square miles, or less than one-fourth of the entire area of the Presidency. The variety of the relations which, under the terms of the several treaties, subsist between the British Government and the rulers of the different States and the general superintendence exercised by Government as the Paramount Power, necessitate the presence of an Agent or representative at the principal Courts. The smaller and less important States are either grouped together under the general supervision of a Political Agent or are looked after by the Collectors of the districts within the local limits of which they may happen to be situated. The position of the Agent varies, roughly speaking, with the importance of the State. In some cases he does little more than give advice and exercise a general surveillance. In other cases Agents are invested with a direct share in the administration ; while States in which the ruler is a minor are directly managed by Government Officers or under arrangements approved by Government. In connection with the administration of the two last named classes of States, a large amount of judicial work devolves on the Governor in Council, in criminal cases as a Court of Reference and Appeal, and in civil matters as a Court of Apeal.

The Gujarat States fall into two groups. The North Gujarat States lie mostly to the North of the Narbada and include the Rewa Kantha, Mahi Kantha and Kaira Agencies. The South Gujarat States, which lie to the south of the Tapti, are those in the Surat Agency.

The Maratha States fall into four groups. The North and South Konkan groups lie below the ghats to the north and south of Bombay respectively. The Deccan and the Southern Maratha Country States are situated in the central and southern portions of the Bombay Deccan. The province of Sind contains one State. The Settlement of Aden, including Perim, directly administered by the Government of Bombay, is also included in this review.

The population of these states is about four millions and their revenue nearly five crores.

I. North Gujarat

1. MAHI KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns—

Lieutenant-Colonel His Highness Maharaja Sir Daulatsinhji Pratapsinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Idar ; *Residence*—Himatnagar ; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—50 ; *Educated* at the Nobles' School at Jodhpur and the Mayo College at Ajmere ; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Bhawanisinhji Hamirsinhji, Maharana of Danta ; *Residence*—Danta ; *Caste*—Parmar Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—27 ; *Has no male heir.*

The Rao of Pol—

Rao Shri Hamirsinhji, Rao of Pol ; *Residence*—Pol ; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—23 ; *Educated*—Scott College, Sadra, and the Mayo College, Ajmere.

Area—3,124 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—450,478 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 24½ lakhs ; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda by Idar*—Rs. 30,340 ; *by small States and Talukas*—Rs. 91,328 ; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, gram, cotton, bajri, jowari and all common grains, marble and chalk.

In addition to these three States, the Agency includes 49 small States and Talukas.

The rainfall was sufficient and seasonable for agricultural operations. At some places monsoon crops including cotton were damaged by excessive rains in the latter part of the season. The outturn of monsoon crops varied from 6 to 8 annas in the rupee while that of winter crops varied from 12 to 14 annas in the rupee. Fodder and water were sufficient.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 26½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3 lakhs (the total strength of the Police in the Agency being 1,249) ; Prisons Rs. 20,000 ; Public Works Rs. 2 lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. 61,700.

The total number of schools was 171 with 11,113 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 87,600.

2. REWA KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

Captain His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vajayasinhji Chhatrasinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Rajpipla ; *Residence*—Nandod (Rajpipla) ; *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—37 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharaval Shri Natwarsinhji Fateshsinhji, Raja of Chhota Udepur ; *Residence*—Chhota Udepur ; *Caste*—Chavan Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—20 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Captain His Highness Maharaval Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Mansinhji, K.C.S.I., Raja of Baria ; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Baria ; *Caste*—Khichi-Chavan Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—41 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, the Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun and England ; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vakhatsinhji Dalelsinhji, K.C.I.E., Raja of Lunavada ; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Lunavada ; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—67 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Nawab Babi Jamiatkhanji Manvarkhanji, Nawab of Balasinor ; *Residence*—Balasinor ; *Tribe and religion*—Babi Pathan, Suni Musulman ; *Age*—33 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has no heir.*

Maharana Shri Jorawarsinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Sant ; *Residence*—Sant ; *Caste*—Puwar Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—46 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Area—4,956 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—753,058 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 74 lakhs ; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda*—Rs. 1,30,801 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 24,382 ; *Military Force*—1,760, *Principal articles of production*—Rice, wheat, bajri, jowari, cotton, maize, gram, mhowra (flower and seed) and timber ; Akik (cornelian) stone in Rajpipla and Manganese in Chhota Udepur.

The Agency includes also 14 small States and 9 petty Estates.

The rainfall was above the average in almost all the States, but, as the monsoon stopped early in September, the cotton and rabi crops suffered owing to the want of sufficient moisture.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 75½ lakhs.

The total number of schools was 247 and the number of pupils 17,750.

3. CAMBAY

(KAIRA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns—

His Highness Nawab Mirza Hussain Yavar Khan Saheb Bahadur, Nawab of Cambay ; *Tribe and religion*—Moghal, Shia Musulman ; *Age*—16. Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot. (The State is under administration.)

Area—350 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—71,715 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 10,40,000 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 21,924 ; *Military force*—152 ; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, bajri, kodra, rice, wheat, cotton, pulses, oil-seeds and tobacco ; *Manufactures*—Cotton and silk cloths, carpets, matches and articles of agate and cornelian stone.

The rainfall was above the average and varied widely in intensity over different tracts of the State. The early crops were satisfactory, but paddy suffered somewhat owing to excessive rain. For the same reason cotton could not be sown in very many fields and consequently the area under that crop diminished. The wheat crop was poor owing to insect pests.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 7¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 69,500 (the total strength of the Police being 221) ; Prisons Rs. 6,900 ; Public Works Rs. 86,600 ; and Medical Relief Rs. 25,200.

The total number of schools was 60 with an average attendance of 4,291. The expenditure on education was Rs. 81,000. Education at all the primary schools in the Cambay State has been made free and compulsory in all village boys' schools and in the school for depressed classes in the town.

II. South Gujarat

(SURAT AGENCY)

1. DHARAMPUR, BANSDA AND SACHIN

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Vijayadevji Mohandevji, Raja of Dharampur ; *Residence*—Dharampur ; *Caste*—Sisodia Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—43 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Maharaval Shri Indrasinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Bansda ; *Residence*—Bansda ; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—40 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Major His Highness Nawab Sidi Ibrahim Muhammad Yakut Khan, Mubazarat Daula Nasrat Jang Bahadur, Nawab of Sachin. His Highness the Nawab has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Sachin ; *Religion*—Suni Musulman ; *Age*—41 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, Mayo College, Ajmer, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has male heir.*

Area—968 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—155,273 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 24½ lakhs ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 9,154 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, gram, pulses, sugarcane, molasses ; *Manufactures*—Cotton cloth.

The general condition of the crops was fairly good.

The total expenditure was nearly Rs. 24 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 lakh (the total strength of the Police force being 436); Prisons Rs. 3,000; Public Works Rs. 4¼ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 68,300.

The total number of schools was 68, the number of pupils 4,798 and the expenditure nearly Rs. 1 lakh.

2. THE DANGS

Area—999 square miles; *Population (1921)*—24,576; *Gross revenue including the subsidy of the Dangs Rajas*—Rs. 41,700.

A wild tract thickly covered with forest. The inhabitants belong almost entirely to the forest tribes, mostly Bhils. Owing to the failure of the latter part of the monsoon the crops suffered a little. There was no difficulty in getting employment as there was a large amount of forest and Railway works being carried out. With the exception of a little rice and pulse, the crops are confined to the inferior varieties of mountain grains.

The principal item of expenditure was Public Works Rs. 14,400. As regards education, the average number of pupils on roll was 304 with an average attendance of 216.

III. North Konkan

1. JAWHAR (THANA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Second Lieutenant Raja Vikramshah Patangshah, Raja of Jawhar; *Caste*—Koli, Hindu; *Age*—41; *Has male heir.*

Area—310 square miles; *Population (1921)*—49,662; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 5,32,000; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, pulses and timber.

The rainfall was well distributed and sufficient and the condition of the crops was good.

The total expenditure amounted to about Rs. 5⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 13,000 (the total strength of the Police force being 70); Prisons Rs. 800; Public Works Rs. 85,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 6,700.

The total number of schools was 22 with a daily attendance of 433 children. The expenditure on education was Rs. 18,300.

2. SURGANA (NASIK AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—

Prataprao Shankarrao Deshmukh; *Residence*—Surgana; *Caste*—Maratha (Pawar), Hindu; *Age*—46; *Educated* in the Surgana State School; *Has male heir.*

Area—360 square miles; *Population (1921)*—14,912; *Gross*

revenue based on five years' average—Rs. 64,600 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli and timber.

The State contains 61 villages, of which 46 are Khalsa and 15 alienated.

The population consists chiefly of Konkani Kunbis and Kolis living in small groups of thatched and mud houses, whose chief occupation is agriculture carried on in the most primitive fashion. They are much addicted to drink, but are peaceful and law-abiding.

The rainfall was greater than last year. The crops did not have full growth owing to want of rain at the end of the season. The condition of cattle was fair. The supply of fodder and drinking water was, however, sufficient. The price of grain was almost stationary but that of cloth fell.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 72,000, the principal items being Police Rs. 3,000 (the total strength of the Police being 20) ; and Medical Relief Rs. 1,153.

There are two vernacular primary schools in the Surgana State with an attendance of 77 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 515.

IV. South Konkan

1. JANJIRA (KOLABA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns and, within State limits, of 13 guns—

His Highness Nawab Sidi Muhammad Khan Sidi Ahmed Khan, Nawab of Janjira ; *Residence*—Murud, Janjira ; *Tribe and religion*—Habshi, Suni Musulman ; *Age*—13 ; Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Area—377 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—98,530 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,73,600 ; *Military force*—238 ; *Articles of production*—Rice, nagli, wari, cocoanut, betelnut, bajri, jowari, cotton, hemp and sesamum.

During the Nawab's minority the State with the dependency of Jafrabad is being administered by his mother as Regent assisted by the State Dewan.

The rain on the whole was seasonable. It was far above normal in Jafrabad and damaged standing crops. The outturn of the crops was from 9 to 11 annas in the State proper and from 1 to 6 annas in Jafrabad.

The State had an import trade worth Rs. 21⅓ lakhs and an export trade of Rs. 16 lakhs. The abkari and forest revenue was Rs. 2½ lakhs.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 34,000 (the total strength of the Police

force being 179) ; Prisons Rs. 2,800 ; Public Works Rs. 84,600 ; and Medical Relief Rs. 19,000.

The total number of schools was 88. The expenditure on education was Rs. 48,600.

There is an Anjuman-i-Islam Institution at Murud supported from popular subscription for encouraging and spreading education in the Muhammadan community.

2. SAVANTVADI (BELGAUM AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns and, within State limits, of 11 guns—

Captain His Highness Raje Bahadur Shrimant Khem Savant Bhosle *alias* Bapu Saheb, Sar Desai of Savantvadi ; *Residence*—Savantvadi ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—29.

Area—925 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—206,440 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,76,800 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nachni, vari and cocoanuts ; *Manufactures*—Khaskhas, gold - thread and beetle - wing embroidery, horn works, toys and other lacquered wares, etc.

The rainfall was timely and sufficient during the year. The drinking water supply was adequate but in the town of Savantvadi a scarcity of water was felt during the two months of April and May owing to the insufficient flow of water from the Kesari head cistern. The outturn of rice and nachni was 11 annas each.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 69,600 (the total strength of the Police force being 323) ; Prisons Rs. 2,900 ; Public Works Rs. 93,300 ; and Medical Relief Rs. 36,600.

The total number of schools was 161 with 10,040 pupils. The expenditure on education was Rs. 85,400.

V. The Deccan

SATARA JAGHIRS

(SATARA AGENCY)

Ruling Chiefs—

Meherban Bhavanrao Shrinivasrao *alias* Bala Saheb, Pant Prantinidhi ; *Residence*—Aundh ; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu ; *Age*—58 ; *Educated*—Bombay University ; *Has male heirs.*

Lieutenant Meherban Malojirao Mudhojirao Naik Nimbalkar ; *Residence*—Phaltan ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—31 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

(POONA AGENCY)

Shrimant Raghunathrao Shankarrao, Pant Sachiv ; *Residence*—Bhor ; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu ; *Age*—18 ; *Educated* privately ; *Has male heirs.*

(SHOLAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Vijayasinh Fatehsinh, Raje Bhonsle ; *Residence*—Akalkot ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—11 ; Being educated at the Bishop's High School, Poona.

(BIJAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Ramrao Amritrao *alias* Aba Saheb Daphle ; *Residence*—Jath ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—42 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Area—3,301 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—402,169 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 21,89,000 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 39,000 ; *Military force*—113.

Rainfall was generally sufficient in most parts of the States. In Bhor it was seasonable for kharif crops, but was insufficient for rabi sowing. The crops were fair and the price of foodgrains remained stationary, except in the case of wheat and vari in which there was a little rise. The outturns of kharif and rabi crops at Akalkot and Jath were poor.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 21⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1⅛ lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 571) ; Prisons Rs. 9,300 ; Public Works Rs. 1¾ lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. 22,000.

The number of schools was 242 and the number of pupils 13,500. The expenditure on education was nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs.

VI. Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country States

1. KOLHAPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 19 guns—

His Highness Shri Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaj, G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Kolhapur ; *Residence*—Kolhapur ; *Caste*—Kshatriya, Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—29 ; *Educated* in England and Ewing College, Allahabad.

Area—3,217 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—833,726 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 95,67,000 ; *Military force*—704 ; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, rice, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, groundnuts, etc. ; *Manufactures*—Coarse cotton and woollen cloths, pottery and hardware.

Early rains were sufficient for sowing operations in almost all parts of the State proper, but later rains caused the rabi crops almost to fail in some districts. To alleviate the distress of the people, famine works were started in Katkol Mahal and Peta Shirol and the collection of revenue was postponed in certain villages. The condition of crops in the State proper excepting the above peta and mahals was, on the whole, satisfactory.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 118 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1¼ lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 935); Prisons Rs. 50,000; Public Works Rs. 10¼ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 78,300.

The total number of schools was 748, the number of pupils 39,519 and the expenditure Rs. 5 lakhs.

2. SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES

The Southern Maratha Country States consist of the Mudhol, Sangli, Jamkhandi, Miraj (Senior), Miraj (Junior), Kurundwad (Senior), Kurundwad (Junior), and Ramdurg States. The Rulers of the two States, who have salutes of 9 guns, are :—

1. *Mudhol.*—Second-Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Malojirao Vyankatrao Raje Ghorpade *alias* Nana Saheb, K.C.I.E., Raja of Mudhol; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—42.
2. *Sangli.*—Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Chintamanrao Dhundirao *alias* Appa Saheb Patwardhan, K.C.I.E., Chief of Sangli; *Caste*—Konkanasth Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—37.

Area—3,044 square miles; *Population (1921)*—608,294; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 1,87,754; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 45,74,000.

The average rainfall was less than normal. The kharif crop was generally in a better condition but, owing to the failure of the later rains and the appearance of locusts, they suffered in some localities. The outturn of rabi crop was below normal. Fodder was sufficient throughout but scarcity of drinking water was felt in certain areas.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 62⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 1,653); Prisons Rs. 37,700; Public Works Rs. 6½ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 94,500.

The total number of schools was 480 with a daily attendance of 25,548. The expenditure on education was Rs. 3⅓ lakhs.

3. SAVANUR (DHARWAR AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—Captain (Honorary) Meherban Abdul Majidkhan Dilerjang Bahadur, Nawab of Savanur; *Residence*—Savanur

(Dharwar) ; *Tribe and religion*—Pathan, Musalman ; *Age*—36 ; *Has no male heir.*

Area—70 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—16,830 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 2,15,700 ; *Principal articles of production*—Sadis, cholis and country blankets.

The population mainly consists of agriculturists. The rainfall was above the average and the harvest was good though it suffered from the absence of late rains. The Jowari and paddy crops were very good. Cotton was, on the whole, moderate. Rinderpest broke out only in one village. The stock of fodder was sufficient and the supply of drinking water was satisfactory.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 9,400 (the total strength of the Police force being 49) ; Prisons Rs. 1,100 ; Public Works Rs. 29,700 ; and Medical Relief Rs. 3,500.

The total number of schools was 14 and the expenditure Rs. 13,500.

VII. Sind

KHAIRPUR (SUKKUR AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns and, within State limits, of 17 guns—

His Highness Mir Ali Nawaz Khan Talpur, Mir of Khairpur ; *Residence*—Kot-Diji ; *Tribe and religion*—Talpur, Baluch, Musulman ; *Age*—43 ; *Educated*—Aitchison Chiefs' College, Lahore ; *Has male heir.*

Area—6,050 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—193,152 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 27,49,342 ; *Military force according to the reorganisation scheme*—297 ; *Principal articles of production*—Fuller's earth, carbonate of soda, cotton, wool, ghee, hides, tobacco and indigo ; *Manufactures*—Cloth, leather, cutlery, cotton, silk and woollen goods, ivory, metal and lacquer wood works, glazed pottery and carpets.

The total area under cultivation was 190,000 acres. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 19·55 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 65,000 (the total strength of the Police force being 264) ; Prisons Rs. 11,800 ; Public Works Rs. 23,000 ; Medical Relief Rs. 27,000.

The number of schools was 124 with an average daily attendance of 4,020·56.

VIII. Aden

Area (including Perim)—80 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—56,500 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 94,24,000.

The Political Resident at Aden administers the Settlement of Aden and the Island of Perim.

The Settlement of Aden comprises the following divisions: (1) The Peninsula and Isthmus or Aden proper, (2) Sheikh Othman and (3) Little Aden.

Major-General J. H. K. Stewart, K.C.B., D.S.O., held charge of the Residency from 1st April to 23rd June 1926 and again from 10th January to 31st March 1927 and Major B. R. Reilly, C.I.E., O.B.E., from 24th June 1926 to 9th January 1927.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 82¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1·97 lakhs; Prisons Rs. 22,000; and Public Works Rs. 1·25 lakhs.

There were in all 47 schools in the Settlement of Aden, attended by 2,891 scholars. The total expenditure on education in Aden from all sources amounted to Rs. 1·19 lakhs of which Rs. 57,500 was spent by Government.

Condition of the People

The year, on the whole, was favourable, and the rainfall, though untimely and ill-distributed, was above the average in almost all the States. The outturn of crops was generally good. The prices of food-grains were stationary. Supplies of fodder and water were adequate and the condition of the agricultural stock was satisfactory. The labouring classes continued to flourish on the high wages readily obtainable. There was no epidemic of any serious character except that cholera and small-pox prevailed in a mild form in certain areas of the Akalkot and Southern Maratha Country States. The health of the people was generally good.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

LAND RECORDS

THE functions of the Land Records Department are to provide statistics necessary for sound administration in all matters connected with the land, to reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in the Revenue and Civil Courts, to provide a Record of Rights for the protection of all who hold interests in land and lastly to simplify and cheapen periodical settlement operations.

The Land Records staff consists of a Director of Land Records, who is also Commissioner of Settlements, four Superintendents of Land Records, District Inspectors and Circle Inspectors. The function of the Director of Land Records has been limited to inspection and advice. The staff of the Department is divided into two sections—

(*a*) the district staff of Circle Inspectors under the Collectors, and

(*b*) the cadastral survey staff under the Department of Land Records.

The Superintendent and the District Inspectors of Land Records supervise both branches, but in respect of (*a*) their function is rather to advise and assist while the actual orders are given by the Revenue Officers. As to (*b*) the administration is direct.

A complete record of rights and interests in lands has been prepared for all unalienated villages throughout the Presidency and steps are being taken to prepare it for alienated villages also. The record has proved of very great value to the land revenue administration and to the public at large who were not slow in realising its importance as an authentic record of their titles.

City surveys form an important part of land records. Such surveys have now been introduced in Bombay City and in most of the important cities and towns in the Presidency. The progress of this work is being maintained. Suitable arrangements have also been made for the maintenance of city survey records after completion. In Bombay a special office, *viz.*, the Bombay City Survey and Land Records Office, does this work under the control of the Collector of Bombay.

On account of the close connection which necessarily exists between the record of rights and deed registration, which is the

business of the Registration Department, the offices of the Director of Land Records and Inspector General of Registration are placed under the control of one officer who holds both appointments. This officer also exercises general control over the work of the Photozincographic Press at Poona.

GUJARAT TALUKDARS' ACT

Under the provisions of various Acts including the Gujarat Talukdars' Act, the Court of Wards Act, the Guardian and Wards Act, etc., Government are empowered to take over the management of estates whose owners by reason of minority, incapacity, etc., are not considered capable of looking after them. A large number of these is in the Ahmedabad district where in all there are 41 estates managed by the Collector who is also Talukdari Settlement Officer.

The revenue demand for the year including past arrears was Rs. 5·37 lakhs, out of which Rs. 3·88 lakhs were recovered and about Rs. 84,000 were written off. The total rental demand of the estates under management including arrears of past years was Rs. 1·47 lakhs, out of which Rs. 1 lakh were collected and Rs. 10,800 were written off.

There were 17 sons of Talukdars receiving education at the Talukdari Hostel at Dhandhuka at the close of the year as against 19 last year.

Five estates were released from management during the year. Efforts are being made to withdraw management from other estates and to ensure that Talukdars have the same facilities for credit as other landowners.

SIND INCUMBERED ESTATES ACT

The Sind Incumbered Estates Act of 1881 was passed by the Government of India in order to amend the law providing for the relief of Jagirdars and Zamindars in Sind and this Act was further amended in 1896. The management of such estates is undertaken upon an application by the landholder and a Special Officer designated " Manager, Sind Incumbered Estates " has been appointed to supervise the management of these estates under the control of the Commissioner in Sind. There has been a steady decrease in the number of estates under management in recent years, the number in 1923-24 being 146 as against 278 in 1911-12 and 292 in 1915-16. The estates are leased to outsiders or to the estate owners, but generally to the latter whenever this is possible.

Seventeen new estates were taken under management and 21 were released, leaving 139 under management at the close

of the year as against 143 last year. The revenue was about Rs. 11 lakhs and the cost of management was slightly increased from 6·23 per cent. to 6·29 per cent.

THE COURT OF WARDS ACT

The Bombay Court of Wards Act was passed in 1905. Under this Act the Commissioners of Divisions are the Courts of Wards for the limits of their Divisions. With the sanction of Government, they assume superintendence of estates of landholders who, on account of minority or physical or mental defects or infirmity, are not qualified to manage the property and also on application by the landholders of estates that are heavily indebted. Suitable arrangements are also made for the education of minor wards.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS

The foundation of society and industry in India is in the land and the maintenance of a complete record of all rights is a great bulwark of public peace and of law and order. Moreover without such records it would be impossible to get true statistics of any species of production or any of the other economic facts connected with the land.

A great support of the Indian Administration is the land revenue, the right of the State to share in all the unearned rental values of land. The science of economics and fiscal theory is recognising more and more fully the right of the public to this share; and the pre-eminent position of the land revenue in every scheme of taxation necessary for the maintenance of a modern State. Survey and classification of land, and a full record maintained not spasmodically but every day as every change occurs, is indispensable for the assessment and collection of land revenue. This is a task which is never completed. It extends to the cities as well as the country-side and forests. Uninteresting and tedious as much of its work must be, nevertheless the work of the Land Records Department lies as the woof and warp underneath all the elaborate material of which the administration is composed.

The main function of the Department is to maintain all survey and classification records up to date, and for this purpose to carry out the field operations preliminary to the incorporation of changes in these records. It has further to organise and carry out rural and city surveys on an extensive scale and to maintain them in a state of usefulness. Special surveys for private individuals or bodies such as relate to Inam villages, surveys in connexion with Railway or Municipal or Local Board projects,

etc., and surveys on behalf of other Departments of Government and Indian States are also frequently undertaken. The supervision of the preparation and maintenance of the Record of Rights, the periodical inspections of boundary marks and the introduction of Revenue Settlements complete the function of the Department.

ROUTINE MEASUREMENT WORK

Northern Division.—Seventeen Cadastral and six District surveyors were employed on this work throughout the year and four Cadastral surveyors for 4½ months only. Six City Survey Maintenance surveyors were also employed on this work for 2¾ months. This staff measured 15,851 new hissas and 2,791 survey numbers on private application, and 1,891 survey numbers on Government account. The cost was Rs. 28,412 while the fees earned (including fees for Government work on the scale charged to the public) amounted to Rs. 31,798.

Central Division.—Forty-five Cadastral surveyors and seven District surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 7,800 new hissas, and 5,736 survey numbers and 9,105 hissas on private application, and 3,450 survey numbers and 2,914 hissas involved in Government work. The cost was Rs. 49,678 while the fees earned (including cost of Government work estimated as above) amounted to Rs. 50,113.

A temporary staff of 146 hands including Nimtandars under two Survey Mamlatdars was employed on sub-division measurement work. They measured in all 92,720 sub-divisions in 102 villages in seven talukas and two petas of Poona, Sholapur and Satara districts.

Southern Division.—Twenty-three permanent and twenty-three temporary Cadastral surveyors with six District surveyors were employed during the year. They measured 17,185 new hissas and 5,605 survey numbers on private application and 5,274 survey numbers, 329 plots and 1,264 hissas involved in Government work. The cost was Rs. 42,748, and the fees earned (including cost of Government work estimated as above) amounted to Rs. 48,349.

Besides, five parties of 44 measurers under a Survey Mamlatdar measured 52,592 hissas in 24 rayatwari and 55 khoti villages of Mahad Taluka. The total cost of this hissa survey which was peculiarly difficult and intricate, was Rs. 22,032. Five other parties of 45 measurers under a Survey Mamlatdar measured 35,522 hissas in 110 villages of Kumta and Ankola Talukas of Kanara District. The total expenditure incurred on this survey was Rs. 28,538.

Bombay Suburban Division.—One hundred and fifty five correction cases affecting 690 survey numbers and 1,520 miscellaneous cases were disposed of during the year. The sale proceeds of printed maps and extracts from survey records amounted to Rs. 400 while the approximate cost of extracts supplied free to Government officers was Rs. 355.

Sind.—In all 1,123 theodolite stations and 18,280 properties were reviewed during the year. The Superintendent, Land Records in Sind, tested the work of all the city surveys, including that of Karachi, and tested 316 survey numbers measured by the village establishment.

REVISION SURVEYS

Northern Division.—Four Field Party surveyors were employed in Gujarat. They did survey and classification work in talukdari villages of Godhra Taluka for settlement and jama purposes, partition of villages of Tanachhia, Kanod and Baroda, survey of leased lands in Kaira District and Seaforde lands in Surat District and survey of Public Works Department roads. In Thana three Field Party surveyors were employed and a special party surveyed six inam villages of Vada Taluka for the Record of Rights.

Central Division.—Seventeen inam villages were dealt with during the year. Seven inam villages in Patan Taluka of Satara District and 32 villages of the Raisingpur Estate were taken up for survey for Record of Rights purposes. The Kolhapur Darbar desired the survey of 19 inam villages of that State and measurement and classification has been completed in all. The Miraj State asked for the survey of their three talukas, Miraj, Laxmeshwar and Modnimb, comprising of 57 villages, and part of the work has been done. All the States concerned bear the cost of these operations.

Southern Division.—Survey operations and other works were undertaken and completed in a number of inam villages.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The survey staff consisting of one District surveyor, three circle inspectors and four surveyors did 723 measurement cases involving 1,073 survey numbers and four classification cases involving four survey numbers.

REVISION SETTLEMENTS

Northern Division.—Revision settlements were sanctioned by Government for 8 talukas, *viz.*, Prantij, Modasa, Viramgam, Sanand, Bardoli, Chorasi, Bhiwandi and Thana Mahal and for the inam village of Okaf in North Daskroi. Calculation of revised assessments in North Daskroi, Halol, Kalol, Jhalod,

Dohad, Kalyan and Murbad revision settlements which were sanctioned last year was completed.

Central Division.—Revision settlement of 81 Government and 4 inam villages of Mulshi Peta was sanctioned. Similarly permanent settlement of 9 inam villages and temporary settlement of 11 inam villages of the Division were sanctioned. Revised assessments of 11 talukas sanctioned last year were worked out.

Southern Division.—Revision settlements for 23 inam villages of Here Jahagir in Belgaum District, 1 inam village in Dharwar District, 13 inam villages in Belgaum District and 1 inam village in Ratnagiri District were sanctioned by Government. Revision akarbands were prepared for Alibag and Pen Talukas of Kolaba District and Khed, Deogad and Rajapur Talukas and Mandangad Peta of Ratnagiri District.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The revision settlement work of the inam village of Dahisar was completed. The second revision settlements of the Ambarnath and South Salsette Talukas have been sanctioned.

CITY SURVEYS

Northern Division.—Thirty-four cities and 26 village sites are under regular maintenance.

Central Division.—Enquiry work in Malegaon city was completed and that in Lonavla is proceeding. The survey of Mahableshwar was completed. In all 30 cities and five village sites are under regular maintenance.

Southern Division.—The city survey of Malwan in Ratnagiri District was completed. At the request of the Ramdurg State the city survey of the town of Ramdurg was completed. The survey of Matheran was also completed.

Sind.—The survey of the towns of Tando Adam and Mirpurkhas was completed. The maintenance work of Shikarpur, Garhi Yasin, Sukkur, Rohri, Hyderabad, Larkana and Jacobabad city surveys continued to be done throughout the year.

Bombay Suburban Division.—During the year 661 properties were reviewed and 166 theodolite stones were examined in Bandra and Danda, while in the surveyed village sites 116 properties were reviewed. Twenty-eight encroachments were detected in the city and village site surveyed areas.

General Remarks.—The City Survey Maintenance staff in large towns earn sufficient revenue to pay their cost ; in smaller towns the staff is hardly self-supporting. To remedy this to

some extent, two or more of the smaller towns are put in charge of one maintenance surveyor, some of his routine and non-technical work being transferred to Sub-Registrars according to convenience. Direct indexing in the Property Registers by Sub-Registrars is a convenient arrangement by which the Property Index ordinarily maintained in Sub-Registry offices can be dispensed with. The system is operating in certain towns in all the three Divisions.

The system of writing the Property Register on cards, introduced in some cities as an experimental measure, has been found to work satisfactorily. It will be extended gradually to other city surveys in the Presidency.

WASTE LANDS

The following table shows the area under cultivation in the Province :—

1926-27

(In thousands of acres)

Division	Total Culturable area	Occupied	Balance Culturable waste
Northern	4,926	4,478	448
Central	14,358	13,968	390
Southern	7,842	7,623	219
Sind	14,560	8,310	6,250
Bombay Suburban	33	25	8
Total ..	41,719	34,404	7,315

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

THE power of making laws "for the peace and good government of the Bombay Presidency" is vested in the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay. It consists of 114 members. The four members of the Executive Council are *ex-officio* members, and of the remaining 110, 86 are elected and 24 nominated. Of the nominated members not more than 16 may be officials. The elected members are elected as follows :—

	Members
General constituencies—	
Muhammadan Rural	22
Muhammadan Urban	5
Non-Muhammadan Rural	35
Non-Muhammadan Urban	11
European	2
Special constituencies—	
Land-holders	3
Commerce and Industry	7
Bombay University	1
Total ..	86

Of the members of the non-Muhammadan constituencies 7 must be Mahrattas.

All British subjects of either sex who are over the age of 21 years and possess the necessary property qualification are, subject to certain minor exceptions, entitled to vote in general constituencies. The Government of Bombay has also power to permit subjects of Indian States to be enrolled as electors. The property qualification is fixed by Rules under the Government of India Act and is based, in the case of land, upon the amount of land revenue, and in the case of houses upon the annual rental ; in each case tenants as well as landholders are qualified to vote. Besides these all income tax payers and all retired soldiers of His Majesty's regular forces are enfranchised by the same Rules. A general election ordinarily takes place every three years. Before taking his seat every member must make an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Legislative.—The extent of the power of the Council to make laws is defined by section 80-A of the Government of India Act. Generally it may make laws for the peace and good government of the territories constituting the Presidency of Bombay, but certain bills cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor General. The most important of these are—

(*a*) Bills imposing new taxes, except certain taxes specified in Rules made under the Act such as taxes on non-agricultural land and on amusements, succession duties and judicial stamp duties ;

(*b*) Bills affecting the public debt of India or any taxes, the proceeds of which go to the Government of India ;

(*c*) Bills affecting the navy, army or air force ;

(*d*) Bills affecting the relations of Government with foreign princes or states ;

(*e*) Bills regulating a " central " subject.

Central subjects are subjects of vital importance or subjects on which it is desirable that policy should be uniform throughout India. Some of the most important are external relations, defence of India, shipping, railways, posts and telegraphs, currency, civil and criminal law, commerce, all sources of all-India revenue and the all-India services. Again under section 80-C of the Government of India Act a bill affecting the public revenues of the province of Bombay or imposing any charge upon them, cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

After non-official bills and motions to amend Standing Orders have been disposed of, any member may during the remaining time allotted to non-official business move a resolution on a matter of general public interest. Fifteen clear days' notice of such resolution must be given before the date appointed for session of the Council.

Every resolution must be in the form of a specific recommendation to Government. The Governor may within the period of notice disallow a resolution or any part of a resolution on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest or that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Local Government.

No resolution can be moved on any matter which affects the relations of Government with any foreign or Indian State, or relates to the internal administration of any Indian State, or which is *sub-judice*.

Questions for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern may be asked provided that 10 clear days' notice of the question is given. A question may be disallowed on any of the grounds on which a resolution on the subject might have been disallowed, and also on certain other grounds of which the most important are that it must not be in substance a suggestion for any particular action, nor ask for an expression of opinion.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

Acts passed.—In the period between the 1st of April 1926 and the 31st of March 1927, thirteen Acts, passed by the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay, received the assent of their Excellencies the Governor and the Governor-General and became law.

The Acts were as follows :—

(1) Act No. XVIII of 1925 (An Act to give wider powers in the management of municipal affairs in certain cities) was passed with the object of providing a more adequate basis for municipal administration in larger cities of the Bombay Presidency.

(2) Act No. XIX of 1925 (An Act to amend the Bombay District Police Act, 1890) was passed with the object of imposing a restriction on the absolute power which vested in the Government under section 25 of the Bombay District Police Act, 1890, to direct the imposition of a tax or a rate to defray the cost of additional police employed in any local area which appeared to it to be in a disturbed or in a dangerous state. The Act also threw at the same time the responsibility of judging the justice of the punitive levy on the representatives of the people.

(3) Act No. IV of 1926 (An Act further to amend the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871, in its application to the Presidency of Bombay) was passed with the object of removing an anomaly which existed where the police patel or the head of a village was also a member of the punchayat.

(4) Act No. V of 1926 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act, 1887) invested a Deputy Superintendent of Police also with power to authorise, by special warrant under his hand, any Inspector or other superior officer of Police of not less rank than a Chief Constable, to enter and search a gaming house, take into custody and bring before a magistrate persons concerned and seize all instruments of gaming, moneys, etc.

(5) Act No. VI of 1926 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Civil Courts Act, 1869) extended to the courts of First Class Subordinate Judges the jurisdiction in respect of official suits which till the passing of this Act was restricted to the District Courts. This change had recently become more urgent owing to the assumption by Government of the administration of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on the 1st July 1925, as since that date all suits against that railway administration had to be filed in the District Court, a procedure which caused inconvenience and delay and threw a considerable amount of petty work on the District Courts. It was, therefore, proposed that such suits should be triable by any subordinate judge as was the practice before July 1925.

(6) Act No. VII of 1926 (An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Courts in Sind) was passed mainly with the object of constituting a Chief Court in the province of Sind and consolidating the law relating to the district and subordinate courts in that province. This Act provides for a Court of a Chief Judge and three Judges with power to appoint additional Judges as may be required. Until the passing of this Act the District Courts and the Subordinate Courts in Sind were worked under some sections of Bombay Act XII of 1866 with a number of other sections of the Bombay Civil Courts Act which had been extended by notification to the province of Sind. This was a very inconvenient way of legislating for subordinate civil courts and it was, therefore, thought that the passing of this Act was a good opportunity of bringing all those various enactments into one Act so as to have a complete Act both for the Chief Court and the District and Subordinate Courts in Sind.

(7) Act No. VIII of 1926 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879) was passed mainly with the object of enabling the Trustees for the Port of Bombay to permit their chairman to subscribe to the Trustees' Provident Fund and to qualify for retiring gratuity under the rules applicable to the officers holding permanent superior appointments.

(8) Act No. IX of 1926 (An Act to amend the Bombay Prevention of Prostitution Act, 1923) was passed in the first place with the object of enhancing the punishment for the offence of soliciting for the purpose of prostitution, as the punishment of imprisonment for a term extending to 8 days or of fine extending to Rs. 50 proved inadequate and had no effect.

(9) Act No. X of 1926 (An Act to amend the Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925) was passed mainly with the object of

protecting such non-graduate chief officers as were in municipal service before the Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925, came into operation. Section 33 of the Act required that chief officers should be graduates of a recognized University or qualified engineers. It was not intended that this condition should operate in respect of persons who were already appointed chief officers before the Act came into force, and section 3 of the amending Act, therefore, made the necessary provision.

(10) Act No. XI of 1926 (An Act to amend the law relating to the emoluments claimable by hereditary Hindu priests, called the Invalidation of Hindu Ceremonial Emoluments Act, 1926) brought the law as administered by the Bombay High Court into line with the law laid down by the other High Courts. The principle laid down in this Act had been the long established law in all parts of British India except the Bombay Presidency where it had been held that a watandar priest or Joshi can obtain a decree for his customary emoluments though as a matter of fact his services for performing the ceremonies may not be requisitioned by a Hindu. This state of law had caused considerable annoyance to non-Brahmin Hindus in the Presidency. The priests who claimed these emoluments belonged universally to the Brahmin caste and non-Brahmin Hindus resented their being forced by the law courts to pay for services which they neither desired nor utilised. This Act did away with the cause of that injustice to the non-Brahmin Hindus.

(11) Act No. XII of 1926 (An Act further to amend the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902) was passed with the object of enabling police officers to destroy animals which were diseased or so severely injured that it would be a cruelty to let them linger on. The power given by section 10 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890 (XI of 1890), extended only to the destruction of animals in respect of which an offence under that Act had been committed. It did not cover other cases such as those of animals injured in street accidents and the amendment gave the necessary power to the police.

(12) Act No. I of 1927 (An Act further to amend the Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925) was passed on account of certain difficulties which had arisen with reference to certain municipal boards which were included in the Schedule to the Bombay City Municipalities Act, XVIII of 1925. Under section 17 of the District Municipal Act, the term of a municipality was three years and it could be extended by one year more. In the same way under section 24 of Act XVIII of 1925, the ordinary term was three years and it could be extended by a year more.

Section 9 of the Act further provided that when municipalities which were constituted under the District Municipal Act came under the jurisdiction of Bombay Act XVIII of 1925, the councillors either elected or nominated who were on the board would continue to be so for the term for which they were appointed under the old Act. Time was given to the city municipalities included in Schedule II of Bombay Act XVIII of 1925 in order that they might go through the various formalities which were required under section 10 for preparing electoral rolls. But certain municipalities failed to do so within the time allowed. Certain other municipalities were given extensions but they held fresh elections without conforming to the provisions of section 10. When the matter came to the notice of Government they held, on the advice of their legal advisers, that the elections which were held were invalid. This matter was noticed after the term of those municipalities had expired. Legislation was therefore necessary in the case of municipalities whose term was expiring or was likely to expire without their being able, for want of time, to conform to the formalities required, to give them time and to validate the acts of those municipalities whose time had already expired.

(13) Act No. II of 1927 [An Act further to amend the Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1922] was passed mainly with the intention of retaining the revised scale of fees introduced by the Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1922, for one year more. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Amending Act made certain consequential amendments in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, rendered necessary by the amendments made in that Act by the Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1922, so as to bring the rates of stamp duty levied on the instruments referred to in sections 4 and 6 of the amending Act to the level of the duty levied in respect of similar instruments under Bombay Act II of 1922.

Bills.—There were eleven Government Bills introduced in the Legislative Council during the period under report. Of these, four were passed into law, two passed their three readings and received the assent of His Excellency the Governor but did not become law during the period under report, four were merely published in the *Bombay Government Gazette*, while one was read for the first time and referred to Select Committee.

There were also twelve private Bills.

Mr. A. N. Surve's Bill to amend the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, and the Thakor of Kerwada's Bill further to amend

the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, were introduced but the motions for the first reading of these Bills were lost.

Mr. R. S. Nekaljay's Bill further to amend the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1874, was withdrawn.

Mr. J. C. Swaminarayan's Bill further to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, Mr. B. G. Pahalajani's Bill to amend the Bombay Civil Courts Act, 1869, and Mr. A. N. Surve's Bill further to amend the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901, lapsed owing to the dissolution of the Council.

Mr. J. C. Swaminarayan's Bill further to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, and Bill further to amend the Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925, Mr. R. G. Pradhan's Bill to amend the President's Salary Act, 1924, Mr. J. Addyman's Bill further to amend the Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act, 1887, Rao Saheb D. R. Patil's Bill further to amend the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878, and Rao Bahadur Kale's Bill to amend the President's Salary Act, 1924, were merely published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* and did not reach their next stage during the period under report.

In addition to the above-mentioned private Bills, notice of a Bill further to amend the Gujarat Taluqdar's Act, 1888, was received during the period under report from Mr. J. C. Swaminarayan.

The Budget was presented to the Council on 21st February 1927 and twelve days were allotted for the discussion of demands for grants. Cuts amounting to nearly Rs. 21 lakhs were made in the Budget as originally presented to the Council. There were five divisions two of which were carried against Government.

Resolutions.—Four resolutions were moved during the period under report all of which were carried. They were :

(1) In view of the pecuniary hardships of primary teachers, this Council recommends to Government that primary teachers should be paid according to the Sathe-Paranjpye Scheme from March 1926.

(2) This Council recommends to Government to reduce any discretionary grants that are paid to municipalities and local boards in the case of those local bodies which refuse to give effect to the resolution passed by this Council allowing to members of the depressed classes the use of wells, tanks, water taps, dharamshalas, dispensaries and schools which are built and maintained out of public funds or are administered by bodies appointed by Government or created by statute.

(3) This Council recommends to Government that the rules for election to this Council be so altered as to allow women voters to stand as candidates for election and to make them eligible for being nominated as members of the Council.

(4) This Council, reaffirming the principle of the resolution as amended and carried by it by a majority on the 15th March 1924, recommends to the Governor in Council that he will be pleased to give immediate effect to it by introducing the necessary legislation after taking into consideration the report, the minutes of dissent and suggestions of the members of the Land Revenue Assessment Committee and making provision for giving retrospective effect to such legislation in view of the fact that in many cases new revision settlements were proceeded with and new rates introduced after the resolution of 15th March, and pending such legislation to issue orders to the revenue authorities concerned not to collect the assessment enhanced in revision after 15th March 1924.

Of the above resolutions, No. 2 was accepted by Government while Nos. (1) and (4) were carried against the wishes of Government. In the case of No. (3) Government stated that official members were free to speak and vote as they pleased.

Five motions were moved by Government Members. Of these three were passed by the Council, while two were carried as amended.

In addition to the above, the Council passed a resolution putting on record its appreciation of the work done by the Honourable the President, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Motions for adjournment of the House.—There were three motions for adjournment of the House to discuss definite matters of urgent public importance. Of these two were disallowed, one by His Excellency the Governor and the other by the Honourable the President; while leave for adjournment was not granted by the Council in the third case.

General Election.—During the year under report the second Council elected under the Government of India Act of 1919 was dissolved and a general election having taken place, the third Council met on the 18th February 1927. The Honourable Mr. A. M. K. Dehlavi was elected President of the new Council.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The High Court, consisting of a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges, has both ordinary and extraordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction and exercises original and appellate functions. The appellate Judges of the High Court also supervise

the administration of justice by Subordinate Civil and Criminal Courts. Ordinary original jurisdiction is exercised in matters both civil and criminal, which arise within the limits of the Town and Island of Bombay, but the High Court may in Civil cases remove and itself try any suit brought in any Court under its superintendence, and, in criminal cases, exercise jurisdiction over all persons residing in any place whose Courts are subject to the superintendence of the High Court.

In the Mofussil, the administration of civil justice is, in addition to the High Court and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Sind, entrusted to four grades of Courts, those of District and Assistant Judges and of two classes of officers styled, respectively, First and Second Class Subordinate Judges.

The Small Causes Court.—For the more easy recovery of small debts and demands, Courts invested with summary powers have been established in the City of Bombay and in Ahmedabad, Poona and Karachi. The Judges of the mofussil Small Causes Courts have jurisdiction in money suits within the towns where the Courts are situated up to Rs. 500 in value and their decisions are final, save in so far as they are subject to reference on points of law to the High Court or to the supervision of the High Court in its extraordinary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of these Courts may be extended to Rs. 1,000 and they can also be invested with appellate jurisdiction. The Presidency Small Causes Court has cognisance in suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value arising within the Island of Bombay.

Criminal Courts.—District and Assistant Judges under the title of Sessions Judges, Additional and Assistant Sessions Judges exercise criminal jurisdiction. But the executive district officers who in addition to their revenue duties are invested with magisterial powers, dispose of original criminal work to a great extent. There are under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, in addition to the High Court, four grades of Criminal Courts—those of the Magistrates of the Third, Second and First Class respectively and the Courts of Sessions.

CIVIL JUSTICE

Bombay Presidency (Proper).—The permanent Civil Judicial Staff employed during the year 1926 consisted of 10 High Court Judges, 17 District Judges, 2 Joint Judges, 7 Assistant Judges, 6 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, 22 First Class Subordinate Judges and 104 Second Class Subordinate Judges.

There were in all 241,484 civil suits for disposal in the Civil Courts of the Presidency excluding 14,727 miscellaneous cases. Of these 188,631 suits were before the mofussil courts, 52,853 in the City courts, 40,928 being in the Presidency Court of Small Causes.

The number of suits instituted in the mofussil courts was 127,939, showing an increase of 3,769 on the figures of the preceding year. The increase occurred in money and title suits to the extent of 3·8 and ·2 per cent. respectively, the number of money suits instituted being 102,347 against 98,626 in the year 1925 and that of title suits being 25,592 against 25,544. The total value of suits instituted in the year amounted to Rs. 4,92,43,000, indicating an increase of Rs. 66,82,000 on the total value for 1925.

The increase in institutions was chiefly marked in East Khandesh (1,702), Nasik (1,329), Surat (712) and Sholapur (518) and this related to money suits. There was, however, a marked decrease in Ahmedabad (8,583) owing to the separation of the Kaira District and West Khandesh (1,613) owing to the transfer of Chalisgaon taluka to the East Khandesh District.

East Khandesh recorded 13,998 institutions of which 12,030 were money suits. In no other district except Poona and Nasik did institutions exceed 10,000. Institutions were between 9,000 and 10,000 in the District of Ahmedabad; between 8,000 and 9,000 in the District of Kaira; between 7,000 and 8,000 in the District of Ahmednagar; between 6,000 and 7,000 in the Districts of Satara, Sholapur, Dharwar, Thana and Surat; between 5,000 and 6,000 in the Districts of West Khandesh, Broach and Panch Mahals; between 4,000 and 5,000 in Ratnagiri, Belgaum and Bijapur; between 3,000 and 4,000 in Kanara, and 2,896 in Kolaba, which is the lowest figure of institutions.

The total number of suits disposed of by the mofussil courts was 128,515, an increase of 8,486 on the figure for 1925. Of the total number of disposals, 116,693 were dealt with by paid sub-divisional tribunals, 10,831 by Small Cause Courts, 951 by District Courts and 40 by unpaid tribunals such as Inamdars and Jagirdars. Of the suits disposed of 11·2 per cent. were without trial, 38·6 per cent. without contest, 49·8 per cent. with contest and ·4 per cent. by compromise. The total number of suits for disposal before the High Court was 6,387 against 7,896 in 1925. The number of suits actually instituted during the year was 3,063. The number of suits disposed of by the High Court was 3,621 and the number left pending was 2,766.

In the Bombay Small Cause Court the number of suits instituted was 35,274 while those disposed of was 35,137, leaving a balance of 5,791 pending at the close of the year.

The number of appeals before the Courts subordinate to the High Court was 9,395 and before the High Court itself was 2,773 making a total of 12,168. The number disposed of by the former was 4,604 and by the latter 1,167.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal justice in the Presidency was administered by the High Court and Sessions Judges mentioned above together with 974 Magistrates, 19,741 Police Patils, 138 Sanitary Committees and Sanitary Boards and 284 village panchayats. The total number of offences dealt with by all classes of criminal courts in the Presidency was 212,444 involving a trial of 263,226 persons. Of these 79,472 persons were acquitted and 171,018 were convicted.

The total number of cases brought to trial before the Presidency Magistrates including Honorary Magistrates was 112,483. This showed a decrease by 12,109 as compared with the figures of 1925. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 102,572 or 11,462 less than in 1925 and those under the Indian Penal Code fell from 10,558 to 9,911. The decrease was most marked in offences under the City of Bombay Police Act which fell from 65,456 to 52,839 and those under the Municipal Act fell from 20,517 to 12,320. The total number of persons dealt with by the Presidency Magistrates was 120,708 of whom 105,533 were convicted. Of the persons convicted 9,943 were punished with imprisonment, 88,169 with fine and 215 with whipping.

The Magistrates' Courts in the mofussil dealt with 130,758 persons. Of these 1,025 were committed to the Sessions.

The Courts of Session dealt with 662 offences involving 1,809 persons. Of these, 1,637 persons were tried and 968 or 59·1 per cent. were convicted. The death sentence was passed on 26 persons, transportation or penal servitude on 149, imprisonment 775, fine 179, whipping 9 and order to give security 7.

The total amount of fines imposed by all the courts was Rs. 12,73,000, of which Rs. 10,31,000 were realised and Rs. 90,000 were paid as compensation.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sind.—The Sind Judiciary exercises jurisdiction over an area of 46,506 square miles with a population of 3,279,377.

There was an increase during 1926 of over 2,000 in the number of offences reported, and those returned as true as compared with 1925. There was a corresponding increase in the number of cases brought to trial from 32,277 to 34,132 and in the number of persons under trial from 52,090 to 54,731. The number of persons remaining under trial at the end of the year fell from 6,684 to 6,154. Out of 55,190 persons tried, 23,124 were convicted, an increase of 2,223 over the previous year. Ten persons were sentenced to death, 70 to transportation, 4,774 to imprisonment, 17,227 to fine, 137 to whipping and 1,214 were ordered to furnish security. The fines in 1926 amounted to Rs. 2·57 lakhs as against Rs. 2·62 lakhs in 1925.

The number of offences affecting life and attempts at such offences fell from 272 to 241 in the year under report.

The total number of civil suits instituted in 1926 increased by 1,414 to 30,226 while the total value decreased by Rs. 49 lakhs to Rs. 135 lakhs. There were 1,129 more cases pending at the end of 1926 than at the end of 1925.

The total receipts of all courts amounted to Rs. 10·50 lakhs and the total charges to Rs. 23·20 lakhs, disclosing a deficit of Rs. 12·70 lakhs. The deficits in 1925 and 1926 were mainly due to the fact that the cost of the new Judicial Court buildings at Karachi and Hyderabad—estimated to cost 33 lakhs—is debited against receipts.

REGISTRATION

The total number of registrations during the year 1926 slightly increased from 300,218 in 1925 to 301,902 or by ·56 per cent. "The increase in the number in spite of general dullness of trade throughout the presidency shows," says the Inspector General of Registration, "that after the continuous decline during recent years bottom seems to have been touched and we may hope the number will not go down in the future. The increase in registrations is not general. Bombay City still shows a slight fall (2·7 per cent.). Five Gujerat districts show an increase while the Konkan, Deccan and Karnatic taken as a whole show a small decline. The fall of 18 per cent. in the number of registrations in East Khandesh is noteworthy. It is curious however that in the neighbouring district of West Khandesh, which is also a cotton district, the number increased by 14 per cent. In Sind districts the increase is general and amounts to 10 per cent. but it is ascribed to the tightness of the money market and failure of crops. In the districts of Sukkur and Hyderabad the increase amounts to 18 and 16 per cent. respectively. The District Registrar, Sukkur, has given no reason for the increase while

the District Registrar, Hyderabad, attributes it to slackness of business and tightness of money market (two contradictory conditions). My belief is that money is easy in Sind and business hopeful as the Barrage works proceed and that is enough to account for a rise in business. The average value per transaction in Bombay City has imperceptibly increased from Rs. 23,743 in 1925 to Rs. 23,761 in 1926. The average value per transaction in the whole Presidency however which has been declining from 1920 shows a further fall from 1,145 to 1,098 which indicates that as a result of stagnation of trade and further deflation, property is still falling in value."

Documents relating to immovable property increased from 293,616 to 295,070 or by ·49 per cent.; documents relating to movable property increased from 4,539 to 4,641 or by 2·2 per cent.

Sales show a decrease of 3,328 or of 2·4 per cent., but in the province of Sind they have increased by 6·6 per cent. Mortgages have increased by 8,134 or by 9·1 per cent., 7,618 documents relating to Co-operative Credit Societies were registered during the year.

The photo-copying system which has been under trial since 1921, worked satisfactorily. The new film process will remove the main difficulties, *viz.*, small size of prints and occasional failure to reproduce a word or part of a word. The question of durability of the photo-copies has been settled.

The total expenditure of the department increased from Rs. 6,31,000 to Rs. 6,39,000 while the income declined from Rs. 12,41,000 to Rs. 12,37,000.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year under report 67 new companies were registered as compared with 62 in the year preceding. Of these 63 were limited by shares—22 public and 41 private companies—and 4 limited by Guarantee having no share capital. The number of new public companies registered, the same as the previous year, was again very small and the authorised capital showed a small decrease against last year. In the case of the Private Companies though nine more were registered, the figures of authorised capital showed a decrease of over Rs. 4 crores; but in Private Companies the figure of authorised capital cannot be taken too seriously as in almost all cases such capital as is subscribed, is subscribed otherwise than in cash and does not necessarily bear any true relation to the value of the consideration given.

"It appears from the number of private companies registered," says the Registrar of Companies, "that the advantages of limited liability under the Act are appreciated and availed of but the small number of new public companies indicates either that company promoters in the Presidency had not sufficient confidence in the industrial outlook during the year to venture to float new companies or did not believe that the investing public would be willing to subscribe for new issue of shares. With gilt-edged securities standing at the present high figure it seems unfortunate that opportunities are not afforded to the public of subscribing to new industrial enterprises in the Presidency."

The total number of companies working at the close of the year was 851 as against 839 during the previous year. Of these 547 were public, 265 private share capital companies and the remaining 39 were companies limited by guarantee and possessing no share capital. One hundred and fifty-eight old companies increased their authorised, subscribed and paid up capital during the year while 43 old companies reduced their capital. The aggregate authorised, subscribed and paid up capital of all companies at the close of the year was Rs. 212 crores, Rs. 126 crores and Rs. 101½ crores respectively. Fourteen companies incorporated outside British India established their places of business in this Presidency during the year as compared with 19 in the preceding year and 11 closed their offices.

The number of societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860, was 29 as against 20 in the previous year.

The number of documents of various classes registered during the year was 3,219 as against 3,081 in the preceding year.

The revenue from fees amounted to Rs. 36,500 and the expenditure to Rs. 35,600.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

THE Police force consists of two distinct bodies, the stipendiary and the village police. The stipendiary force is divided into grades, the members of which beginning as Constables on a monthly pay of Rs. 19 in Southern Division, Rs. 20 in Northern and Central Divisions and Rs. 21 in Sind have the opportunity of becoming Head Constables, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors and even Deputy Superintendents. In the mofussil—

the Sub-Inspector has charge of the Police Station,

the Inspector has charge of a Circle comprising several Police Stations or a large Town, and

an Assistant Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent has charge of a Sub-Division of a District.

The pay of a Sub-Inspector ranges from Rs. 75 to Rs. 160 and that of an Inspector from Rs. 180 to Rs. 300 per mensem. The whole staff of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors is now designated as "Police Prosecutors" and their pay ranges from Rs. 90 to Rs. 400 per mensem. The pay of a Deputy Superintendent of Police ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800 per mensem.

It is not the purpose of Government to give the stipendiary police a regular military character, and a portion only are armed, and to them are allotted the duties of guarding jails and lock-ups and the escort of prisoners and treasure. The knowledge of drill required from them is not very elaborate. The more purely police functions are discharged equally by members of the armed and of the unarmed branches of the force.

The proportion of police to area and population of the different portions of the Presidency varies greatly, being determined by a consideration of the nature of the country, the density and character of the population, and the neighbourhood of Indian States.

In the Northern Range there is one policeman to every 4·02 square miles and to 732 inhabitants.

In the Southern Range 1 to 5·34 square miles and to 1,031 inhabitants.

In Sind 1 to 9·49 square miles and to 623 inhabitants. Of the total police force, excluding officers, 1,177 were mounted.

For the purpose of control in the Presidency proper the whole force is under the Inspector-General of Police, who is assisted by three Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Certain administrative powers have, however, been reserved to the Commissioners of Divisions.

The executive management of the police in each district is vested, under the general direction of the Magistrate of the District, in a Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent, and has in some cases one or more Assistant Superintendents under him.

Railway Police.—A special police organization exists in connection with the railways of this Presidency—the North-Western which traverses Sind, the B. B. & C. I., the G. I. P. and the M. & S. M. Railways. The police employed along these lines of rail are under the supervision of three Superintendents. The Railway Police form a distinct body quite independent of the Police of the districts in which they serve, but their pay and prospects are identical with those of the District Police. Since the year 1919 the cost of the " Crime and Order Police " is wholly debited to the Provincial Revenues and that of the " Watch and Ward Staff " is borne by Railway Administrations.

Criminal Investigation Department.—In addition to the police attached to individual districts there exists a special organization for the detection of crime called the Criminal Investigation Department, which includes the Finger Print Bureau and is under the immediate control of a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The Criminal Investigation Department, in co-operation with the Police of other provinces, is employed in the prevention of the spread of serious crime, in the investigation into crime having ramifications over several jurisdictions and in the pursuit of criminals. The Finger Print Bureau has been working satisfactorily since its establishment in 1901.

MOFUSSIL AND SIND POLICE

" The year under report was, on the whole, one of comparative quiet," remarked the Inspector-General of Police in his annual Report for 1926. " The political situation was quiet throughout the year and there was no unrest on that account. On the other hand, communal tension over the burning question of music before mosques continued to be acute, and but for the special arrangements made in Sholapur (involving the drafting of men from other districts), on the occasion of certain religious processions, there would undoubtedly have been disorders. Feeling between the two communities is still running high and constant care is necessary to prevent the danger of collision.

This state of affairs throws upon the Police a heavy burden of anxiety, for complications have a knack of rising where they are least expected. The situation is not made easier by the unbridled writings and speeches indulged in from time to time by the protagonists of both communities."

A feature of the year was a pronounced decrease—6,164 cases—in non-cognizable crime, for the first time during the last six years. Whether the improvement now reported is fortuitous or works the beginning of a steady fall is yet too early to say. On the other hand, the situation with regard to cognizable crime was not so favourable. A small increase was recorded in the year, both in the total under this head and in serious reported crime, as compared with the figures for the year 1925. The Inspector-General points out that with the comparatively peaceful conditions prevailing during the last three years and the rounding up of gangs of dacoits and outlaws, the statistics for the year under report might reasonably have been expected to show a considerable falling off. But the reverse is the case and the statistics reveal that crime has been slowly but steadily rising during the last three years. Various reasons have been given by the Superintendents and complaints as to the inadequacy of the Police Force have been repeated in some of their reports.

The total of cognizable and non-cognizable offences reported during the year was 136,512 against 141,991 in 1925, a decrease of 5,479 under all classes.

The cognizable crime reported to the Police under the Indian Penal Code (Classes I to V)* amounted to 32,550, Northern Range being responsible for 11,014, Southern Range 10,393 and Sind 11,143, while the total of all reported cognizable crime (Classes I to VI)* amounted to 40,393, against 40,153 in the preceding year, indicating a rise of 240 cases under all classes. The crime reported under the Indian Penal Code shows a rise of 438 cases, while those under Class VI a fall of 198 cases. Heavy increases in cases under the Indian Penal Code were recorded in Dharwar, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Bombay Suburban District, Sholapur, Poona and Broach.

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* *Class I*—Offences against the State, Tranquillity, Safety and Justice such as those relating to Army and Navy, Coin, Stamps, Currency Notes, etc.

Class II—Connotes serious offences against the person, *i.e.*, murder, culpable homicide, rape, unnatural offence, kidnapping, hurt, grevious hurt, etc.

Class III—Serious offences against person and property or against property only, *i.e.*, dacoity, robbery, mischief, housebreaking, house-trespass, etc.

Class IV—Minor offences against the person such as wrongful restraint and confinement, rash act, compulsory labour.

Class V—Minor offences against property, including theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating, receiving stolen property.

Class VI—Offences under Special and Local Laws, against religion, etc.

The total number of reported cases of serious crime was 23,839 as against 23,713 in the previous year. Murders were 558, attempts at Murder and culpable homicide 212, dacoities 173, robberies 669, house-breaking 8,074, thefts including cattle thefts 13,118 and receiving stolen property 1,035.

Taking murders, attempts at murder, and culpable homicides together, there is an increase of 37 cases as compared with the figures of 1925. The number of dacoities decreased by 17, while robberies increased by 3, but taking both figures together, the incidence of this form of crime was the lowest recorded for the last quinquennium. This satisfactory result is due, to a great extent, to the successful efforts of the police for some years in rounding up a number of important gangs of dacoits and outlaws. A contributory cause says the Inspector-General of Police was the excise policy of the Government in particular in East and West Khandesh, " which has provided the gentle Bhil, in the illicit distillation of liquor, with a lucrative substitute for highway robbery and dacoity."

As regards " burglaries," the total number reported during the year was the lowest during the quinquennium. The decrease was chiefly noticed in Sind, where a fall of 328 cases was recorded.

A statement showing the incidence, per thousand of the population, of cognizable crime reported under the Indian Penal Code and the principal classes of serious crime for 1926, district by district, is attached to the end of the Police report. Similar figures in respect of other Provinces for 1926 are not available. Taking the figures for 1925, there was a general fall in seven out of ten Provinces. Burma as usual continued to be the most, and Madras the least, criminal, while Bombay stood stationary, *i.e.*, fifth.

The incidence of total reported cognizable crime under the Indian Penal Code per thousand of the population was 1·78 as against 1·77 for 1925, the figures for the Presidency being 1·43, and for Sind 3·51, as against 1·39 and 3·62 respectively in 1925. The figure for serious crime stood at 1·05 for the Presidency proper and 2·49 for Sind as against 1·02 and 2·59, respectively in the previous year.

The Bombay Suburban District continues to be the most criminal (5·46) and Ratnagiri the least criminal (·44) among the districts. The corresponding Districts in Sind were again Karachi Headquarters (6·95) and Thar and Parkar (1·99).

As regards the high incidence of cognizable crime in the Bombay Suburban District, the Superintendent of Police pointed out that—

"This District differs from the ordinary up-country district in that the criminals operating within it come from without. Where the criminal is local and is known, he can be watched, and crime can be kept down by efficient surveillance. Here, the prevention of crime is a much more difficult task. Those responsible for offences against property are not usually residents of this District, and they are not usually known. To keep crime down, it is absolutely essential that there should be an adequate number of men for efficient day and night patrolling and for an efficient watch to be kept at all Railway Stations. Really efficient working cannot be expected so long as the Suburban Police is separated from the City Police. Kurla, Ghatkopar, Bandra, Villa-Parla and Andheri are now really parts of Bombay—although geographically they are not one, for Police purposes they should be considered as one. London and Greater London are policed by one Force, and it appears to me that Bombay and its suburbs should be policed by one Force. I can safely say that in the course of investigation of practically every offence against property, some enquiries have to be made by this District Police Force in Bombay City. If the criminal himself does not come from Bombay, he disposes of his property in Bombay, or makes good his escape in or through Bombay.

The total number of cases excluded as false, or due to mistakes of law or fact, was 8,657 as against 8,650 in 1925. The number of pending cases was 6,980 as against 6,749 in the previous year, an increase of 231 cases. Of these 6,980 cases, 1,853 were pending with the Police and the remaining 5,127 with the Magistracy.

"Apart altogether from the financial issues involved," says the Inspector General, "the law's delays are proving a serious obstacle to the satisfactory performance of Police work. When the simplest case may drag on for weeks it is not to be wondered at that witnesses are suborned and that the prospects of conviction grow remote."

Eliminating the "Excluded" and "Pending cases," real cognizable crime disposed of during the year amounted to 31,709 cases, as against 30,869, an increase of 840 cases.

The total number of undetected cases during the year increased from 10,786 in 1925 to 11,040 in 1926. Commenting on undetected crime, the Commissioner, Northern Division, observes :

" The number of cases that remained undetected at the close of the year was 1,707 out of a total of 3,995 of real cases under Indian Penal Code, as against 1,566 out of 3,782 in the previous year, giving the increased percentage of 42·72 as against 41·40 in the last year. These figures go to indicate that nearly half the number of real cases have gone undetected, and reveal a serious state of affairs which does not reflect credit on the detective efficiency of the investigating police force. I agree with Mr. Holland (District Superintendent of Police, Surat), that 'until such time as Government are inclined to provide for an adequate police staff and until a more intelligent class of rank and file for unarmed police are forthcoming, few hopes of much better results need be entertained.' "

" I have little to add to these remarks," continues the Inspector General of Police. " The heavy reduction in Police Stations, outposts and personnel that has been the inevitable result of the financial stress from which the Presidency has suffered of late years has connoted a less rigid control over the criminal fraternity. The stoppage of patrolling has deprived the Police Station Officer of vital information in regard to what is going on in his charge and has left him less fitted to deal with the prevention and detection of crime. * * * * * The fact that there has not been greater deterioration in the control of the Police over crime speaks volume for the skill and devotion to duty of the Police Station Officers."

Out of 19,372 cases decided by trial, 17,240 ended in conviction as against 16,608 out of 18,265 cases tried in 1925. The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 88·99 as against 90·92 in the previous year under all classes and 84·77 against 86·50 under the Indian Penal Code.

The total number of persons arrested by the Police *suo motu* was 39,742 against 38,267 in 1925 and 37,446 in 1924. Including the persons involved in cases pending during the previous year, the total number of persons for disposal was 48,287 as compared with 45,852 in 1925 and 44,882 in 1924. Of these, 37,876 were tried during the year under report, resulting in the conviction of 23,746. This gave a percentage of 62·69 on the total tried against 63·78 in 1925 and 62·17 in 1924.

Reported non-cognizable crime dropped from 92,602 in 1925 to 86,438 in the year under report, a net decrease of 6,164.

The number of persons concerned in non-cognisable cases was 131,081 as against 142,986 in 1925. Of these 86,353 were tried, resulting in conviction of 57,123.

The total number of persons proceeded against under the preventive sections of the Law dropped slightly from 3,658 to 3,563, a decrease of 95.

During the year under report, 4,719 out of 23,746 persons convicted were identified as having been previously convicted and 1,305 were classed as "habitual offenders," against 3,960, 22,782 and 1,169, respectively, in 1925.

The District Superintendent of Police, West Khandesh, attributes the rise in the number of 'habitual offenders' to the lighter nature of the sentences inflicted on them. "The actual professional criminal is a comparatively small class, but it is a class which thrives on small punishments and which comes out of prison undeterred from plying its chosen profession which is crime. This fact becomes more and more undeniable year by year, as criminal records are examined, and the only protection of the public from the professional criminal lies in dealing with him as a pest, and sentencing him entirely on his criminal record, without consideration of the apparent triviality of the last offence in which he may happen to have been caught out. That he is not being so punished is apparent from the frequency with which he leaves and re-enters jail every few years."

"The logical outcome of the course advocated by the District Superintendent of Police, West Khandesh, would be a policy of indeterminate sentences," comments the Inspector General of Police. "The habitual criminal is an individual who declines to conform to the universal social code of behaviour; he is, therefore, erratic and, in a highly developed state, he should be placed in an asylum not so much in his own interests as in the interests of society in general. The duty of the State is to strain every nerve to prevent a citizen from becoming a habitual, to give him every chance of reforming, to teach him that he cannot be a member of society unless he is prepared to conform to its code and, finally, to segregate him when he proves clearly that he is incorrigible.

"* * * * Efforts are, however, being made, and have consistently been made for many years, to reduce the chances of the casual criminal developing into a habitual. Increased facilities for release on bail in non-bailable cases, the infliction of fines, wherever possible, instead of imprisonment, and careful segregation in jail from the influence of habituals are some of the measures that have been adopted to this end. The release of a first offender on probation is provided for in the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the bold extension of this principle is now under the consideration of Government.

Accepting the axiom that the serving of a short term of imprisonment is the first step in the downward path of the large majority of habituals, it is reasonable to assume that if this step be removed a certain number of potential habituals would turn back rather than jump to the second step ; and if the second step be removed, the chances are that fewer still would attempt to reach the third. Briefly put, the experiment under consideration is something in the nature of a ' suspense account ' of sentences."

The total strength of the Police in the Presidency, including Sind and Railways but exclusive of the Dangs, stood at 1,090 officers and 22,319 men against 1,083 officers and 22,141 men in the previous year.

The total cost of the Police for the financial year 1926-27, inclusive of clerical staff, amounted to Rs. 134·34 lakhs as against 133·68 lakhs in 1925-26,—a net increase of Rs. 66,000.

The average cost of a Policeman decreased from Rs. 552-7-0 to Rs. 550-1-6.

The proportion of Police to area, population and cognizable crime investigated was 1 policeman to 5·67 square miles, 2·37 Railway miles, 773 persons and 1·68 cognisable crime investigated as against 1 to 5·71 square miles, 2·44 Railway miles, 780 persons and 1·63 cognisable crime investigated in the preceding year.

BOMBAY CITY POLICE

In his Annual Report for the year 1926 the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, observed that the year was a very quiet one from the police point of view. There were no strikes on a large scale, there was no Pathan scare, there was no communal discord, though there was so much of it elsewhere ; there was no great political excitement ; there was a rise in police morale and a drop in crime—on the whole, the sort of year the police hope for but do not often see.

Political activity in Bombay during the year was at a low ebb. Meetings were numerous but, as a rule, were poorly attended. Even the elections aroused much less public interest than was anticipated and served to focus public attention more on the candidates than on the policies for which they stood. The action of the Nejdis in the Hedjaz in demolishing tombs aroused some genuine feeling among the Mussalman community.

The total number of cognisable and non-cognisable cases reported during the year was 138,675 against 135,827 in 1925. The increase mainly relates to petty cases under local acts, etc. On the other hand the total number of cognizable cases reported

to the Police was 95,314 against 100,629 in the previous year. " It is gratifying to be able to record," says the Commissioner, " another substantial fall in crime under the Indian Penal Code this year." 7,954 cases were registered during 1926 as against 9,603 in 1925, a fall of 1,649. This is the lowest total recorded since the year 1912. Every one of the 18 Police Stations in the City, except the Harbour Police Station, contributed to the decrease. Robberies dropped from 117 in 1925 to 81 : burglaries from 1,700 to 1,363 : thefts from 5,444 to 4,349 and rioting from 13 to 8. Compared with the year 1920, the present high water mark in crime, there has been a reduction of over 30 per cent.

The total number of cognisable offences under Special and Local Laws and others was 87,360 against 91,026 in 1925. A decrease of nearly 4,000 in these cases was mainly on account of the licensing of hawkers by the Municipality and an agreement by the police with the municipal authorities that the hawkers should be allowed to ply their trades in certain localities.

There were in all 58 cases of murder and attempted murder including 11 pending from previous years. Of these, 23 ended in conviction, 7 in acquittal and 16 remained undetected. There were 14 cases of culpable homicide. Of these, 7 ended in conviction, 2 in acquittal, 1 remained undetected and 4 were pending at the close of the year. Of the 47 murders and attempted murders reported during the year, the victims in 32 cases were males and 5 females. The remaining 10 were cases of infanticide. The motive of crime in 12 cases was jealousy, in 2 cases gain, and in one case the motive was to evade arrest by the police. In the 10 infanticide cases the motive was, apparently, the desire of the mother to conceal her shame.

The total number of undetected cases of all classes was 3,393 against 4,207 in the preceding year. The percentage of non-detection works out at 3·52 against 4·14 in 1925.

During the year action was taken against 1,811 professional beggars and 262 beggars were deported under section 27 (2) of the Bombay City Police Act.

The Commissioner observes :—" The present machinery for dealing with beggars is not satisfactory. Beggars are to be seen all over the city in all stages of deformity and poverty. Prosecution for beggary results generally in warning or discharge or one day's simple imprisonment and operations are then immediately resumed. A beggar who is convicted twice may be deported by the Commissioner of Police but deportation is generally a waste of money as the beggar comes back, and if he does the

Magistrate is not ordinarily inclined to take a very severe view of his defiance of the order. The Corporation are now in correspondence with Government with a view to comprehensive measures for dealing with beggary and until some such measures are devised, I see no hope of keeping the city reasonably clear of beggars."

The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in police cognisable cases amounted to Rs. 17,25,000 as compared with Rs. 17,91,000 in the previous year. The total value of property recovered was nearly Rs. 10 lakhs which gives a recovery percentage of 57·92 as compared with 27·23 in 1925. The amount of property stolen is the lowest since 1918 and the percentage of recovery is the highest recorded in this city since 1907.

The total number of motor vehicles running in Bombay City during the year was approximately 11,300 including 800 motor lorries. The number of taxis was 901 or an increase of 114 over last year's figure. There were 1,976 motor accidents or 144 more than in the previous year. This figure includes accidents in which no injury was caused to persons, for instance, collisions with victorias, tram cars, labour carts, etc. Out of this number 52 were fatal accidents. The returns for street accidents show 77 persons killed and 2,324 injured as compared with 88 killed and 2,197 injured in the preceding year. The decrease in the number of persons killed is, no doubt, closely connected with the increasing attention given by the police to the regulation of traffic. A separate Traffic Department was formed in December 1924, and since its formation the policemen have been systematically trained in the regulation of traffic and are kept for definite periods on traffic duty alone.

The combined system of patrols and fixed posts which the Commissioner introduced was a remarkable success, although there were not sufficient men for the full operation of the scheme. A flying squad is sent out in each section for a certain number of hours each night : the men are in plain clothes : they are under the control of a Sergeant or Sub-Inspector or officer of higher rank : nobody knows at what time they are to go out except the officer in command : nobody knows in what part of the section they are to operate except the officer in command. As the thief or burglar is no longer able to obtain definite information of the movements of this patrol and as he no longer gets any warning of danger by seeing a policeman in uniform approaching him, he is now frequently caught in the streets and sometimes with the property on him. Given a sufficient number of men

to work the system effectively, it ought in the opinion of the Commissioner to be possible to rid the city of many undesirables who are here only for the purpose of committing crime.

Discussing the Discipline of the Force, the Commissioner said, "Though the total number of punishments inflicted was nearly as high as in the previous year, there was a distinct improvement in the *morale* of the Force. It was very pleasing to see the professional interest taken in their work by officers of all ranks with very few exceptions and to see their labours rewarded by a very substantial reduction in crime at the end of the year. If officers will continue to work with the same zest as they displayed during the year and will continue to exact the proper performance of their duty by the rank and file there is every reason to hope that crime may be maintained at its present comparatively low level and, if Government will sanction the increase in the Force that is urgently necessary, that it may even be brought to a much lower level."

The total strength of the Police Force including officers is 3,832 and its total cost about Rs. 33,60,000.

VILLAGE POLICE

Under the provisions of Bombay Act VIII of 1867 the village police are, subject to the control and direction of the Commissioner, administered by the different District Magistrates. It is their special duty to prevent crime and public nuisances and to detect and arrest offenders within village limits. They are not stipendiary, but receive perquisites from the inhabitants of the village or rent-free lands or small sums of money from Government. In each village the village police are under the charge of the police patel, who is often, but by no means always, the person performing the duties of revenue patel. His duties as police patel are to furnish the Magistrate of the district with any returns or information called for, and to keep him constantly informed as to the state of crime and all matters connected with the village police and the health and general condition of the community in his village. Under a form of administration which preserves the village as the unit of collection in revenue matters the institution of village police naturally holds an important place.

There are no village police in Sind, but in their place village or taluka trackers (paggis) are employed.

The village police rendered special assistance in 421 cases during 1926 as against 314 in the preceding year. In all 414 village policemen were rewarded, 92 by the grant of Good Service

Tickets, 50 by the grant of swords and the remainder by money rewards amounting in all to Rs. 3,111. On the other hand, 636 village policemen were reported for neglect of duty against 503 in 1925. It is gratifying to note that the number of cases in which the village police rendered assistance increased appreciably during 1926. In this connection, the Inspector General of Police remarks : " Having steadily for decades improved and widened the sphere of activity of the district police, we have grown to depend less and less upon the village police, who have slowly atrophied. When, therefore, the stern dictates of economy have narrowed the sphere of utility of the district police, we have had to fall back upon a broken reed. If the working of the Criminal Tribes Act is to be regarded seriously—as it should be—I feel that it will become imperative to overhaul the village police system. Economy forced us, five years ago, to put a stop to the patrolling of villages by the district police ; we hoped that the rural police stations would be kept *au fait* with what was going on in their respective charges by the village police, but this hope has been falsified. The Police Station Officers are, in consequence, working in the dark and have appreciably lost touch with the people. And as the village police are not under the orders of the District Superintendent of Police, it is the more difficult to ensure that the police patels maintain a lively sense of their responsibilities in regard to police matters."

ADEN POLICE

The total number of officers and men of the police was 321, of whom 12 were mounted. Only 87 were literate. The expenditure on the force was Rs. 1,97,000 of which Rs. 1,35,600 was borne by Government and the remainder by the Aden Settlement and the Port Trust. Out of 295 persons concerned in 409 offences and sent up for trial 235 were convicted, 58 discharged and 2 were awaiting trial. The percentage of convictions was 67·52 as compared with 73·68 in the preceding year. The value of property stolen during the year amounted to Rs. 19,816 of which property worth Rs. 3,216 was recovered. The conduct of the police in general was fair. Forty-five persons were deported to Somaliland and 126 to the interior of Arabia at the expense of the Settlement while 32 persons were deported to India, Mokalla, Hodeidah, Port Sudan, Medi and Mogadiscio at Government's expense.

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORKHOUSES

By the European Vagrancy Act of 1874 a person of European extraction (which does not include " those commonly known

as Eurasians or East Indians") found asking for alms or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence is a "vagrant" and may be required by a police officer to appear before a Magistrate. If the latter thinks that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment he sends him to a Government Workhouse known as the Working Men's Hostel, where he is kept. If the Magistrate is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to get employment in any other place in India he may at his discretion forward the vagrant to such a place.

If after a lapse of a reasonable time in a workhouse no suitable employment is obtainable for the vagrant, the local Government may cause him to be removed from British India at Government expense or may release him.

Penalties are provided by the Act for refusal to go before a Magistrate, for quitting the workhouse without leave, etc., two years' imprisonment being the maximum penalty for the latter offence.

The Government Male Workhouse is now administered by the Salvation Army, which receives a grant from Government. Destitute Europeans may go voluntarily to the King Edward's Home which is managed by the Salvation Army and also receives a grant from Government.

The total number of inmates at the end of the year 1926 was 65 out of which 52 were newly admitted during the year under report. The total cost was Rs. 10,238 as against Rs. 8,758 in the previous year. The average daily population during the year was 18 and the average cost of each inmate was Rs. 568-12-6 as against Rs. 605-5-4 for 1925.

Five vagrants deserted the Workhouse during the year. The maximum period of confinement of an inmate who left the Hostel was 341 days.

No female vagrant was admitted to the Female Workhouse during 1926.

Bombay Jails

The average daily population of jails during the year was 12,829 as compared with 12,324 in 1925. The total number of convicted prisoners admitted during the year was 24,609 against 15,781, while under-trial prisoners numbered 72,769 against 78,143 in the previous year. The variation in the figures representing the number of convicted and under-trial prisoners is mainly due to a revision of the statistical practice observed in the previous years. An interesting feature of admissions during

the year was the great increase of European and Anglo-Indian convicts amounting to about double the number admitted during the previous year and the much larger number of prisoners aged from 19 to 21 years who were admitted. The former class totalled 136 against 81 in the previous year, while the latter numbered 1,536 against 1,202. Thirty-four convicts sentenced to transportation volunteered to go to Port Blair. The total number of prisoners released under Remission Rules was 4,913 as compared with 5,193 in the previous year.

Fifty-seven juvenile prisoners (those under 16 years of age) were admitted as compared with 70 in 1925. Two hundred and twenty-nine male prisoners from 15 to 20 years of age were admitted into the Dharwar Juvenile Jail as compared with 154 last year. The total number of male youths between the ages of 16 and 21, who were sent to prison during the year was 2,075 as compared with 1,690 in 1925; 949 or 45 per cent. of the total number were admitted into the Bombay City Prisons.

"Those who are under 15 ought never to be sent to prison," says the Inspector General of Prisons. "If they cannot be dealt with under Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, or whipped, they should be sent to a Reformatory School. Certainly nothing could be more futile and harmful than to award simple imprisonment in such cases, though several instances of this having been done will be observed in the statement shown in the Report. But, as the law stands at present, juveniles of 15 years old and upwards must frequently be sent to jail. This can to a large extent be remedied by the passing of a Borstal Act as stated last year. There will, however, always be a considerable residue of juveniles who have lapsed into crime after discharge from the Reformatory School or Borstal Institution. To deal with these a portion of Yeravda Central Prison is being set apart, where such prisoners can be entirely segregated and where a further attempt will be made to reform them.

"As regards female juvenile offenders, arrangements have been made whereby girls of under 14 will never be sent to prison in Bombay City but will be kept in the Rescue Home maintained by the Bombay Presidency Women's Council, who kindly offered to receive such prisoners.

"It is hoped that arrangements will shortly be concluded whereby young girls in the mofussil also will be sent to suitable institutions instead of being committed to prison."

DISCIPLINE

The total number of prisoners fettered for punishment or security increased somewhat during the year chiefly owing to the greater number of prisoners working on extra-mural labour at Shikarpur, the number of such prisoners being 6,339 against 5,985 in 1925. But the number of prisoners fettered as a punishment fell from 3,987 in 1925 to 3,264 in 1926. The total number of cases of jail offences dealt with by the Criminal Courts was 29 as compared with 76 in the previous year. The number of floggings rose from 17 to 28. In the previous year many more cases of assault were referred to the Criminal Courts, whereas in the year 1926 more were punished by flogging. The latter is usually the more efficacious method of dealing with violent prisoners as it is inflicted without any delay and is a more deterrent form of retribution than an additional term of imprisonment.

During the year a plot to blow up the wall or main gate of Belgaum Central Prison and effect an escape of prisoners on a large scale came to light and a quantity of materials for manufacturing bombs was discovered buried inside the jail. One paid warder who brought the explosives in was convicted and sentenced to 5½ years' rigorous imprisonment, but there was not sufficient legal evidence to justify the prosecution of the prisoner who it is known was the prime mover in the conspiracy.

HEALTH

The sick rate in the jails increased somewhat during the year mainly owing to the number of admissions for Scurvy at the Hyderabad Central Prison which practically doubled the sick rate at that jail as compared with the previous year. The average daily number of sick was 243·2 against 204·3 in 1925, whereas the death rate was 10·3 per mille against 11·1 in 1925. The death rate was lower than that recorded in the jails of any other Indian Province in 1926.

In the jails at Dhulia, Ahmedabad, Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur and in Sind Convict Gang the daily average number materially exceeded the sanctioned accommodation.

New prisons are being opened to relieve the congestion. The new Nasik Road Central Prison which will accommodate 1,500 habitual convicts was partially opened during the year. Further reconstructions were carried out at His Majesty's House of Correction, Bombay, which is now well adapted for separate confinement of various classes of prisoners. The erection of barbed wire fencing at the Sind Convict Gang has been delayed

by the necessity for amending certain details in the plan of construction. It is anticipated that it will be completed very shortly and that the use of bel chain will then be abandoned except in the Upper Sind Jails (Sukkur and Shikarpur) during the very hot weather when it is imperative that prisoners should be allowed to sleep in the open air. Proposals for converting the Dharwar Juvenile Jail into a Borstal Institution have been administratively approved.

JAIL INDUSTRIES

An effort has been made to reorganise jail industries by the appointment of a special committee, whose report is under the consideration of Government. Interim orders on certain points have already been issued, including the decision to install power weaving and dyeing machinery at the new Nasik Road Central Prison to manufacture the cotton textile requirements of Government Departments.

During the year under report fresh orders were issued regarding the diet for prisoners. It was found that much unnecessary expenditure was incurred by the use of the more expensive grains as food-stuffs and new rules have now been issued to remedy this defect.

Progress continued to be made in the important matter of religious and moral instruction to prisoners. For the most part the lecturers give their services voluntarily though in some cases they are recouped for the cost of their conveyance to jails situated at a distance from towns. At Sukkur there is a paid Moulvi and in Bombay City fees are paid to the lecturers. Besides, there is work done by several non-official gentlemen in some of the important prisons. Lectures were given regularly by members of Societies such as the Order of the Star in the East and the Salvation Army at Yeravda Central Prison, Thana District Prison and Bombay City Prisons, but there are still jails such as Belgaum Central Prison and Dharwar Juvenile Jail where no regular instruction of this sort is given to prisoners by non-official agency.

Special attention continued to be paid to the provision and maintenance of good libraries for the use of prisoners at all the larger jails.

The total cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners (other than Civil prisoners) during 1926 was Rs. 19 lakhs against Rs. 18·82 lakhs in 1925. The average cost per prisoner was Rs. 148-11-11 against Rs. 153-6-1 last year. The reduction has been effected entirely in the larger jails in which the total average cost per head fell from Rs. 147 to Rs. 140, whereas in Sub-Jails

and Lock-ups it increased from Rs. 158 to Rs. 168 per prisoner. Owing to the increased jail population the total cost of feeding prisoners rose from Rs. 7,92,000 to Rs. 8,23,000. The average cost per prisoner was, however, almost exactly the same, *viz.*, Rs. 64-7-8, as compared with Rs. 64-8-11 in the preceding year.

Criminal Tribes

The total population in settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act was 9,577 as against 12,042 in the previous year. The Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer in his report for the year 1926-27 pointed out that this drop of 2,465 was remarkable. A minor reason for the reduction is that about 117 persons were discharged on probation but the main reason was explained as follows.

"A number of Criminal Tribes families had grown up in the settlements who no longer needed to be confined in a settlement on account of their criminal habits but who themselves desired to remain in the settlement. They had found regular work in the town. In many cases they had led a wandering life before coming to the settlement, and had no village to which they could return and find employment. Thus colonies for freed persons were organised adjacent to the settlement in which such persons may live. Some provision of this nature was very necessary. It would have been a very shortsighted policy to turn such people adrift compulsorily, without making some provision for their future. The difficult position which such persons would be in, was illustrated recently when a number of persons discharged absolutely from a settlement in another part of India on account of their good conduct appeared at one of our settlements asking for admission. Such persons, if not given facilities for settling in a place, are almost sure to revert to crime. Eventually Government will only have to bear the cost of education of these families in the colonies for freed persons. The other expenses such as medical supervision, sanitation, etc., are being paid by a hut-tax collected from them. In many of these colonies this amounts to Re. 1 per family a month. This is rather a high rate and some of them object to the rate as being more than the hut-tax they used to pay in the settlement. But somehow or other, a solution had to be reached whereby a self-supporting scheme is formulated, or otherwise the burden upon Government would be unending. If eventually some of these people prefer to live in the town as ordinary citizens there would be no objection to their doing so. About one thousand of these persons are Chapparbands.

"At the same time I feel that it would be much better if many of the persons discharged from the settlements could be established on the land. Temptations are fewer in the villagers and life is simpler. So far our main attempt in settling such people on land has been at Hotgi. Most of the available land there has now been given to persons freed from settlements for their good conduct. A scheme was prepared and sanctioned administratively for a small training farm near Dharwar as there is much land available on the edge of the forest in the Dharwar and Northern Kanara Districts. The difficulties to be faced arise from wild pig and malaria but it was hoped to fight these with success. Unfortunately it was not possible to make financial provision in the current budget and so the scheme has been postponed."

EMPLOYMENT

The rains of 1926 were not very favourable and as a result the problem of finding employment for the settlers was more difficult than usual. All the spinning and weaving mills which yield the chief source of employment in Sholapur and in Gokak Falls Settlements were very full of labour, but the number of persons employed by them has not decreased to any material extent. Over 196 settlers were employed in the Railway workshops at Hubli. The Carpentry workshops attached to many of the settlements obtained in most cases sufficient orders to keep them busy. The workshop at Hubli settlement has made a reputation for itself for its furniture and always finds it hard to keep pace with its orders. In Baramati settlement a number of Bhamptas have become dherzis and are doing well. Work on the Nira Right Bank Canal Construction afforded also a very useful source of employment of an unskilled type. This work is nearing completion and proposals have been made for the opening of a settlement in connection with a tank construction work in Pimpalgao Kunjira of Ahmednagar District.

EDUCATION

Elementary education is free and compulsory both for boys and girls up to the age of 13 years and for all children who work as half-timers in the mills. Attendance in the night schools is enforced up to the age of 18 years for boys who have left the day schools as it is important to maintain literacy, and moreover the night school gives to the staff many useful points of contact and control at a very important period of the boys' life. The total number of children attending the day school is 2,013 giving a proportion of 210·2 per thousand of population. As

observed on previous occasions, much more attention is given in the settlement schools to the manual training compared with ordinary elementary schools. Four hundred and ninety-eight school boys now receive training in agriculture or wood work and tin work or tailoring or weaving as part of the school curriculum. A number of boys who have left the day school are being given further training in various trades.

" Scouting " is encouraged. There are now 30 troops of Boy Scouts containing 615 boys and 9 companies of Girl Guides and Blue Birds containing 218 girls.

Special establishments are set up under the Criminal Tribes Act such as the Boys' Homes and Girls' Home at Sholapur. In the Homes and Hostels established in Hubli, Bijapur, Baramati and Sholapur there are now 109 children. It is only in very exceptional cases that children are separated from their parents and placed in these Homes. Removal is only enforced if the children become beyond the control of their parents or if they are orphans and have no relatives who can act suitably as guardians for them. The Women's Home at Hubli, which is a Rescue Home for women from all the settlements, is a very valuable aid in settlement work, for an immoral woman may be the cause of much trouble in a settlement. During the year 34 women were admitted and 32 discharged. The camp at Dharavi for Criminal Tribes on probation in Bombay City and for other members of Criminal Tribes has succeeded in doing some good educational work amongst the children but was not wholly successful in other branches of its work, and eventually the Committee in charge of it resigned control and Government resumed responsibility temporarily. The question of its reorganisation or abolition is now under consideration. The Matunga branch of the Hindu Maha Sabha has undertaken work amongst the Mang-garudis living in Naigaon and run a night school for them, while the Servants of India Society found that they could not do any effective work amongst the free Kaikadis of Bombay City.

The total expenditure of the settlements for the year was Rs. 2,93,000.

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CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

THE dominant feature of the agricultural season of 1926-27 was the short duration of the rains (from July to September) and their uneven distribution during this short period. Thus, except in parts of the South Konkan, there was practically no rain in June in most parts of the Presidency with the result that *kharif* sowings were delayed and considerable anxiety was felt on this account at the end of the month. The copious rains received in July dispelled this anxiety in most of the Presidency (except in the south-east where more rain was still needed). But, the rain was ill-distributed in August, being excessive in Gujarat and Khandesh and once again deficient in the south-east. In September, the rains were almost ideal being light where they were previously excessive and copious where they were deficient before. It was thought, in fact, that the rains of this month (September) had made amends for their previous irregularities and the prospects were generally bright over most of the Presidency at the end of this month. The rains however were generally very deficient in October and practically absent from November onwards with the result that the *rabi* crops did well only in areas like Gujarat and Khandesh where the soils were sufficiently retentive and the rains in September sufficiently heavy, while they failed over a very large part of the east Deccan and Karnatak. To put the seasonal history in a nut-shell, it can be said that so far as the *kharif* crops were concerned, the season was quite satisfactory throughout the Konkan and the west of the Deccan and Karnatak and fairly satisfactory in Gujarat and Khandesh, though it was much below the normal in the east Deccan and east Karnatak which, however, is not an important *kharif* area. As regards the *rabi* crops, the season was really first class nowhere but was still fairly good in most of Gujarat and Khandesh. In the most important

rabi (late crop) area of the Presidency, namely, the east Deccan and Karnatak, however, it was definitely bad. In Sind, the inundation was late and this checked the *kharif* area. When once the river rose, however, it maintained a steady and good level till the close of the season and the *kharif* crops thus came out fairly successfully in most of the Province. The *rabi* crops also did well in the beginning but suffered later on very badly from frequent visitations of locusts and from frost in the winter in places.

Area under cultivation.—In the Bombay Presidency proper, the gross cropped area expanded by 386,000 acres. The most noticeable increase occurred in Gujarat (+ 218,000 acres) and Deccan, except Ahmednagar (+ 198,000 acres) due to the good, though somewhat late, *kharif* rains which encouraged extended sowings in most parts of these divisions and the excellent September rains which gave an impetus to *rabi* sowings on an extensive scale. On the other hand, there was a set back in the Karnatak (— 21,000 acres) mostly in the Bijapur District (— 25,000 acres) where the rains were generally deficient in the season, and in the Konkan (— 9,000 acres) due to the area under rice being checked, in parts, owing to the absence of rains in June.

The area cropped twice showed an extension of 178,000 acres in the Bombay Presidency proper, the increase being shared by all the Divisions and chiefly Gujarat. Thus, in Gujarat, the double cropped area increased by 145,000 acres due to the copious rains of the season which left ample moisture in the soil for a second crop to be taken on the same land. The same cause brought about an extension, though to a much less extent, in the other divisions, viz., Deccan (+ 21,000 acres), Konkan (+ 11,000 acres) and Karnatak (+ 1,000 acres).

The net cropped area advanced by 208,000 acres in the Bombay Presidency proper. The causes which led to the increase in the case of the Deccan (+ 178,000 acres) and Gujarat (+ 72,000 acres) and of the small decline in the Karnatak (— 22,000 acres) and the Konkan (— 20,000 acres) are the same as already noticed under the " gross cropped area " above.

In Sind, the gross cropped area, the area cropped more than once and the net-cropped area rose by 393, 62 and 331 thousand acres respectively due to the good and steady inundation of the season, though it was somewhat late in beginning.

In the Bombay Presidency proper, the assessed area decreased by 13,000 acres while the unassessed area showed an expansion of 19,000 acres. In Sind similarly, while the assessed area

fell by 78,000 acres the unassessed area showed an increase of 148,000 acres.

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	Presidency proper			Sind		
	1925-26	1926-27	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1925-26	1926-27	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A—Cultivated Area						
Gross cropped area ..	27,826	28,212	+ 1·4	4,260	4,653	+ 9·2
Area cropped more than once	487	665	+36·5	314	376	+19·1
Net area cropped ..	7,339	27,547	+ 0·9	3,946	4,277	+ 8·6
Current fallows ..	6,160	5,958	— 3·3	5,446	5,186	— 5·1
Assessed ..	33,357	33,344	..	8,888	8,811	— 0·9
Unassessed ..	142	161	+13·4	504	652	+29·8
Total Cultivated Area ..	33,499	33,505	..	9,392	9,463	+ 0·8
B—Uncultivated Area						
Available for cultivation (culturable waste) ..	900	1,098	+22·0	6,060	5,967	— 1·5
Not available for cultivation. { Forest ..	8,511	8,524	+ 0·2	735	739	+ 0·5
Not available for cultivation. { Others ..	5,802	5,608	— 3·4	13,900	13,996	+ 0·6
Total Uncultivated Area ..	15,213	15,230	+ 0·1	20,695	20,702	..
Total Area ..	48,712	48,735	+ 0·1	30,087	30,165	+ 0·2

NATURE OF THE CROPS

Two-thirds of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, jowar, bajri, rice, wheat and gram being the most important crops. Cotton is the largest non-food crop.

In the Bombay Presidency proper, the area under *food crops* rose by 1,309,000 acres or by 7·1 per cent. over the previous year and by 290,000 acres or 0·1 per cent. over the average. Among the *kharif* crops, bajri and rice showed an extension of 981 and 65 thousand acres respectively due to the abundant, though somewhat late, *kharif* rains whereas among the *rabi* crops, wheat and gram showed an expansion of 198 and 46 thousand acres respectively due to the excellent September rains in most parts of the Presidency. *Jowar* (mostly *rabi*), however, showed a decline of 412,000 acres or 5·3 per cent. below the previous year, due to the unsatisfactory character of the *rabi* season in the chief *rabi jowar* area, namely, the south-east of the Presidency. The area under sugarcane was nearly stationary.

The area under *non-food crops* dropped by 923,000 acres or by 9·9 per cent. as compared with the previous year though it was still substantially above the average (+1,003,000 acres or 13·5 per cent.). The most marked decline occurred in cotton which showed a curtailment in area of 848,000 acres or 16·6 per cent. below the previous year, the chief reason being the fall in the price of the article, and the unfavourable character of the season in the principal cotton tracts. The area under oil-seeds was very much about the same as last year while that under tobacco showed a slight decline mostly in the Kaira District due to the excess of rains there.

The net result of the variations in the food and non-food crops was an increase of 386,000 acres or 1·5 per cent. over the total cropped area of the last year and of 1,293,000 acres or 4·9 per cent. over the average.

In Sind, with the exception of rice and cotton which showed a set back of 167 and 36 thousand acres respectively, the former chiefly owing to the late inundation of the year and the latter mainly to the fall in prices, the area under all the crops, both food and non-food, rose considerably both over the previous year and the average, due to the good and steady inundation when once it started.

Cropped Area

(Area in thousands of acres)

Crops	Bombay Presidency Proper			Sind		
	1925-26	1926-27	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)	1925-26	1926-27	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)
I—Food Crops						
(*a*) Cereals and Pulses—						
Jowari	7,819	7,407	− 5·3	496	628	+26·6
Bajri	3,632	4,613	+27·0	1,019	1,123	+10·2
Rice	1,906	1,971	+ 3·4	1,203	1,036	−13·1
Wheat	1,134	1,332	+17·5	367	470	+28·0
Gram	413	460	+11·4	173	217	+25·4
Others	3,063	3,684	+20·3	270	308	+14·1
Total Cereals and Pulses ..	17,967	19,467	+ 8·4	3,528	3,782	+ 7·2
(*b*) Sugarcane ..	65	66	+ 1·5	3	3	..
(*c*) Other food crops* ..	424	232	−45·3	49	44	−10·2
Total Food Crops ..	18,456	19,765	+ 7·1	3,580	3,829	+ 6·1

* These include fruits, vegetables and miscellaneous food-crops.

BOMBAY, 1926-27

(Area in thousands of acres)

Crops	Bombay Presidency Proper			Sind		
	1925-26	1926-27	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)	1925-26	1926-27	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)
II—Non-food Crops						
(*a*) Tobacco	114	101	−11·4	7	8	+14·3
(*b*) Oilseeds	1,220	1,219	− 0·1	217	336	+54·8
(*c*) Cotton	5,112	4,264	−16·6	362	326	− 9·6
(*d*) Other non-food crops*	2,924	2,863	− 2·1	94	154	+63·8
Total non-food Crops ..	9,370	8,447	− 9·9	680	824	+21·2
Total Crops ..	27,826	28,212	+ 1·5	4,260	4,653	+ 9·2

* These include condiments and spices, dyes, drugs and narcotics (excluding tobacco which has been separately noted), fodder and miscellaneous non-food crops.

Variations in the principal crops were as follows :—

Jowar and Bajri.—Owing to the deficiency of rains, the area under *jowar* (chiefly *rabi*) showed a considerable drop in the Deccan and Karnatak both below the previous year and the normal but the decline was more than made up by the increase in the area under *bajri*, the cultivation of which increased in all the divisions of the Bombay Presidency.

In Sind, the area under both the crops (*jowar* and *bajri*) showed an extension both as compared with the previous year and with the normal.

Rice.—The area under rice increased by 59,000 acres in the Bombay Presidency proper, the chief increase occurring in Gujarat (+70,000 acres) where the abundant *kharif* rains allowed extended sowings under the crop. There was also an increase in the Deccan (+1,000 acres) and the Karnatak (+3,000 acres) but it was negligible. Against this, there was a contraction in the Konkan (−15,000 acres) chiefly in the Ratnagiri District where the deficiency or absence of rains in June checked the sowings under the crop.

In Sind, the area under the crop receded by 167,000 acres and the decrease was shared by all the districts. This was due to the late inundation of the season.

Wheat.—In the Bombay Presidency proper, the area under wheat extended by 198,000 acres. The most marked increase occurred in the Gujarat Division (+243,000 acres) where the ample September rains and the generally retentive soils allowed a very much extended cultivation of the crop. Against this

there was a set back in the Deccan and the Karnatak due to the unfavourable character of the rains chiefly in the east of these divisions.

In Sind, the area under the crop remained stationary in the Karachi and Hyderabad districts but increased everywhere else due to the favourable behaviour of the river after once it rose. The net result was an increase of 104,000 acres in the Province, as a whole.

Oilseeds.—In the Bombay Presidency proper, the area under oilseeds (1,219,000 acres) remained almost the same as compared with the last year though, when compared with the average it showed an increase of 337,000 acres or of about 40 per cent.

In Sind, the area under oilseeds increased by 119,000 acres or 54·8 per cent. as compared with the previous year though it fell somewhat short of the average (− 21,000 acres or − 6 per cent.).

Groundnut.—This crop is becoming more and more popular with the cultivators every year due to the good prices and the ready sale it obtains in the market. When during 1925-26 the area under the crop rose to 592,000 acres from 344,000 acres in its preceding year (1924-25) it was thought that the maximum limit of cultivation had probably been reached. The advance during the year under review of a further 15,000 acres shows that there is still some possibility of further extension. The area under the crop showed a rather serious set back in Khandesh and a slight one in North Gujarat due to the excessive rains of the season there but it showed an extension in almost all the remaining areas. The increased cultivation of groundnut is, in fact, one of the most striking agricultural changes in recent years.

Cotton.—The cultivation of cotton received a serious set back during the year under report both in the Bombay Presidency proper and in Sind, the main cause of the decline being the considerable drop in the price of the article during the last two or three years. The vagaries of the season such as the late commencement of the monsoon over most of the Presidency, the excess of rains in most parts of Gujarat and Khandesh, the deficiency of the rains in the south-east of the Presidency and the late rise of the river in Sind affected also prejudicially the area under the crop. The decline in area was general but was most marked in Gujarat (− 442,000 acres).

Sugarcane.—The area under the crop remained stationary both in the Bombay Presidency proper (64,000 acres) and in Sind (3,000 acres) during the year under review.

Tobacco.—The area under tobacco receded by 14,000 acres. Most of the decline occurred in the Kaira District where the cultivation of the crop received a check due to the excessive rains of the season.

Irrigated Area

In the Bombay Presidency proper the area irrigated rose slightly—by 27,000 acres or 2·8 per cent., over the previous year, having advanced from 996,000 acres in the last year to 1,023,000 acres during the year under report. The most noticeable increase occurred in the Deccan mostly in the south-east, where, owing to the deficient rains of the season, fullest use had to be made of the irrigation facilities available. In Sind, the irrigated area advanced by 97,000 acres or by 3·2 per cent. from 3,016,000 acres in 1925-26 to 3,113,000 acres during the year under report owing to the favourable character of the inundation after its commencement.

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	Bombay Presidency proper			Sind		
	1925-26	1926-27	Increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent.	1925-26	1926-27	Increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent.
A—Area Irrigated	Acres	Acres		Acres	Acres	
Irrigated from Government canals	241	295	+22·4	2,840	2,958	+ 4·2
Do. private canals	51	55	+ 7·8	16	8	−50·0
Do. wells	524	498	− 4·9	49	43	−12·2
Do. tanks	137	140	+ 2·2	..	..	..
Do. other sources	43	35	−18·6	111	104	− 6·3
Total A—Area Irrigated	996	1,023	+ 2·8	3,016	3,113	+ 3·2
B—Crops Irrigated						
Rice	197	192	− 2·5	1,203	1,036	−13·9
Wheat	144	144	..	227	284	+25·1
Barley	12	10	−16·6	10	8	−20·0
Jowari	236	222	− 6·3	408	506	+24·0
Bajri	44	64	+45·5	473	550	+16·3
Maize	23	24	+ 4·3	3	3	..
Other cereals and pulses	86	92	+ 7·0	172	184	+ 7·0
Sugarcane	64	66	+ 3·1	3	3	..
Other food crops	125	145	+16·0	83	67	−19·3
Cotton	28	30	+ 7·1	362	324	−10·5
Other non-food crops	143	140	− 2·1	181	265	+46·4
Total B—Crops Irrigated	1,102	1,129	+ 2·4	3,125	3,230	+ 5·3

TOBACCO BREEDING—NADIAD

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OUTTURN OF CROPS

Except in Khandesh and Satara in the Deccan and Kaira in Gujarat where it came to four-fifths of the normal and in Thana in Konkan where it was about three-fourths of the normal, the outturn of *kharif jowar* ranged from one-half to two-thirds of the normal in all the other parts of the Bombay Presidency.

The outturn of *bajri* was generally good in the North Deccan and in Satara where it ranged from four-fifths to a full normal. In all the other districts the yield of the crop varied between one-half and three-fourths of the normal.

Rice returned a full normal yield in the Bombay Suburban, Kolaba and Ratnagiri districts in the Konkan and in Ahmednagar in the Deccan ; and a nearly normal yield in Thana in the Konkan, Poona and Nasik in the Deccan and Surat in Gujarat. In the other districts the yield of the crop ranged from two-thirds to four-fifths of the normal except Bijapur where it came to only one-half of the normal.

The yield of *cotton* came to about one-half of the normal in Ahmedabad, the Panch Mahals and Surat and to three-fourths of the normal in Kaira and Broach in Gujarat. In the Deccan, the crop returned about three-fourths of the normal in East Khandesh, a little over half the normal in Ahmednagar and Poona and about two-thirds of the normal in all the other districts of the Division. In the Karnatak, the yield of the crop came to one-half of the normal in all the three districts.

In Gujarat, the yield of *wheat* came to four-fifths of the normal in Kaira and the Panch Mahals, to three-fourths of the normal in Broach and to two-thirds of the normal in the remaining two districts (Ahmedabad and Surat). In the Deccan, the crop returned nearly a normal yield in the Satara District and three-fourths of the normal in Sholapur. In the remaining districts, the outturn of the crop ranged from one-half to two-thirds of the normal. In the Karnatak, the crop returned two-thirds of the normal yield in the Belgaum District but only one-third of the normal in the other two districts (Bijapur and Dharwar).

While the area under food-grains in the Bombay Presidency proper rose by 8·4 per cent., the outturn rose by 12·8 per cent., thus depicting the favourable character of the season as compared with the previous year although when the results are compared with 1924-25 it will be found that in spite of an increase in area over that year, the outturn is smaller. The same phenomenon is noticed in Sind.

CONDITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

The agricultural season of 1926-27 was, on the whole, so far as the actual produce of the land is concerned, decidedly better than its predecessor. No doubt, there were adverse factors such as the excess of *kharif* rains in Gujarat and Khandesh, the deficiency of the late rains over most of the Presidency, the frequent visits of locusts in North Gujarat and Sind, the late inundation in Sind, etc., etc., which caused considerable anxiety at times but with all these drawbacks, the *kharif* crops came out successfully over most of the Presidency while the *rabi* crops also were fairly satisfactory in most of Gujarat and Khandesh. In fact, except in the south-east of the Presidency, where the *rabi* crops were definitely unsatisfactory, the season under review may be said to be fairly good over a large part of the Bombay Presidency including Sind. The net result was that there was a general sufficiency of food and fodder in most parts. The condition of cattle also was generally satisfactory. For, although rinderpest and the common foot and mouth disease appeared, as usual, in many districts nowhere did they assume such a serious aspect as to interfere with agricultural operations. The cholera epidemic was, however, rather serious over a large part of the Karnatak but prompt medical measures brought it under control and except a scarcity of labour which it caused in parts of this division, it did not affect materially the agriculture of the Presidency.

Prices for agricultural products were either stationary or, if anything, showed a downward tendency and this fall was especially marked in the case of cotton and *gul*. On the other hand, the wages were either the same as last year or showed rise in parts (such as the Karnatak, owing to the cholera epidemic), while scarcity of labour continued to be felt in the vicinity of large towns like Bombay. The result of these factors has been that while for the classes labouring for cash wages it has been a good year, for almost all other portions of the agricultural population it has been not very satisfactory and in some cases the difference has been very marked indeed.

The self-dependent small farmer, with an economic holding, chiefly employed in producing food for himself and his family has not suffered much though the downward tendency of the prices must have caused some difficulty in paying the high labour charges and the Government assessment. But the larger man, chiefly cultivating by employed labour, has been very badly affected almost everywhere including the cotton tracts. Thus, for example, the year 1926-27 has been a very unsatisfactory

year in the Deccan Canal tracts, which depend chiefly on sugarcane, and in the cotton areas, as compared with those to which the people have been accustomed in the past. Similarly, the year has been definitely unsatisfactory in the south-east of the Bombay Presidency, comprising the East Deccan and most of the Karnatak (except the *Mallad*) where, owing to the failure of *rabi* crops, the people must have found it extremely difficult to make both ends meet.

The general result seems to be a rise in the prosperity of the labouring classes in the rural areas, an almost stationary position in the case of the small farmer who cultivates his own land and produces crops essentially for maintenance, and a definite set-back in the case of the larger man cultivating chiefly by employed labour. These facts may lead to very marked economic changes in the future, the exact nature of which it is difficult at present to forecast.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ITS APPLICATION

The year 1926-27 has been noteworthy in the record of the Department of Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency on account of two outstanding events—the first Presidency Agricultural Show held in Poona in October 1926, and the visit of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, which visited the Bombay Presidency on two occasions, first in October 1926 and secondly in February 1927.

"The year 1926-27 was, on the whole, a fairly favourable one," says the Director of Agriculture. "No doubt, there were adverse factors such as the excess of *kharif* rains in Gujarat and Khandesh, the deficiency of late rains over most of the Presidency, the frequent visits of locusts in North Gujarat, etc., etc., which caused considerable anxiety at times, but with all these drawbacks the *kharif* crops were fairly satisfactory over most of the Presidency while the *rabi* crops also were on the whole good in most of Gujarat and Khandesh. In fact, except in the south-east of the Presidency, where the *rabi* crops were definitely bad, the season under review may be said to have been favourable over a large part of the Bombay Presidency. In Sind grave anxiety was felt at the outset as the inundation was much below normal in June, but from the end of this month the river attained its normal level and thenceforward maintained its position well with the result that the *kharif* crops were generally good. The

rabi crops had a good start and though they suffered later on from frequent visitations of locusts their yield was, in most parts, not far below average."

"The prices of agricultural produce were almost stationary or if anything, showed a downward tendency and the fall was especially marked in the case of cotton and *gul*. On the other hand, wages were either the same as last year or showed a rise in places. The result was that while for the classes labouring for cash wages it was a good year, it was definitely a bad one for the large cultivators chiefly cultivating by employed labour. Thus, for example, in the Deccan Canal tracts which depend chiefly on sugarcane and in the cotton areas, the year under review has been a very unsatisfactory year as compared with those to which the people have been accustomed in the past."

Groundnut Cultivation.—The popularity of groundnuts as a crop, based on the introduction of the small, high oil-bearing types by the Agricultural Department, continued.

Groundnut seed of known purity is available through the Agricultural Department, and in certain areas (notably Dharwar) high yielding and high oil-bearing strains are being developed. Every propaganda measure is being used, in Khandesh in particular, to ensure that the types grown are kept pure.

Rice.—The high yielding strain of Kolamba rice which has been developed at Karjat for the north Konkan is now popular and its growth is being rapidly extended. The plan is to give out fresh seed, known to be pure, for 10,000 acres a year, and though this quantity has not been reached, a very substantial proportion of that area is being supplied each year. Another Karjat selection has again proved its suitability in the Ratnagiri District, and arrangements have been made for its multiplication on a large scale.

In Sind, selection and breeding work with Upper Sind rices has been very successful, and types of "Kangni," "Prong" and "Jajai" rices, yielding twenty per cent. increase of crop or more, are now available for distribution on a moderate scale. The demand for these improved seeds is now very keen.

Other lines of development in rice cultivation are chiefly in the direction of manuring.

With the fall in the price of artificial manures, it has become possible to use these profitably for rice, and the extension of their use is being pushed.

Cotton.—The improvement of cotton has always been one of the chief items of work of the Agricultural Department,

and progress has been made in the year under report in every division.

In *Gujarat*, the type of Broach cotton known as "1027 A.L.F." has now become the standard in all the areas south of the Nerbudda, and represents the high water mark, as regards staple, of Asiatic cottons. Nothing better in staple than this has been found, but success has been now achieved in obtaining a cotton, of fixed type, by crossing, which has the same staple and a considerably higher ginning percentage. This is known as "No. 5" and is now being multiplied for distribution in the Surat area. This will take the place of part of the supply of pure seed for over 100,000 acres which is now arranged for each year by the Agricultural Department.

In *Khandesh*, apart from the N. R. cotton distributed by the Agricultural Department and which has become the standard cotton of the tract, the cotton breeder has now isolated two types which seem in all respects better than this, and one of them, known as Dhulia No. 1, is now being grown on a large scale. Under test by the Indian Central Cotton Committee during the year it has been shown to spin 20's as against the N. R. cotton which spins 10's to 12's, while it is as good in point of yield and ginning percentage.

In the *Karnatak*, the distribution of improved cotton seed on a very large scale has continued, in co-operation with the Hubli and Gadag Co-operative Sale Societies. Two further problems have engaged specially the attention of the research workers—namely, the breeding of a wilt resistant cotton for the Kumpta tract, and the production of a longer staple cotton suitable for the Dharwar American tract. In both cases success seems to have been reached, and types have fixed with the desired qualities.

In *Sind*, American cotton growing has received a set-back in the year under report, owing to the low prices for staple cottons and also owing to an unaccountable failure in the Punjab American cottons (particularly the so-called F. 4). The area reached 30,000 acres, but as a result will probably be much less in 1927.

Research is now being concentrated on the investigation of types suited to the conditions which will prevail after the Sukkur Barrage is established. There is decided promise in certain Egyptian cottons, and in certain imported Americans. One curious point seems to have emerged from these tests with Egyptian and American types, namely, that it is possible, in Central Sind at any rate, to sow too early, and that

all flowers which open before the middle of August fail to produce bolls.

Wheat.—The biggest success with wheat has been obtained in Sind, where the Pusa 12 type introduced into Northern Sind has now become the standard type in the country, the zamindars being, on the whole, now enthusiastic about it even under *bosi* conditions. The strains of local wheat isolated by the Agricultural Department have again proved their superiority even to the Pusa wheat and are now being spread on a large scale.

The work on improvement of wheats in the Deccan has been disappointing, though a number of strains have been isolated which give a bigger yield than the local wheats. But there do not seem to be strains developed or introduced, which can be recommended on the very large scale that is the case with other crops.

Tobacco.—The great success of the last year of a new tobacco in the tobacco growing regions of Gujarat was emphasised in the current year, when the demand for seed was phenomenal, as would be expected when it is realised that it gives, in irrigated tobacco, an *extra* value of Rs. 50 per acre. A scheme of multiplication of the seed for supply has now been worked out, and large quantities will be available in future.

Jowar.—The improvement of this, the premier grain crop in the Bombay Presidency, is now an accomplished fact in three different centres in the case of *kharif jowar*. The seed given out at Dharwar, yielding from 12 to 24 per cent. more than the corresponding local types, is now becoming popular and is in demand. Its extension is only limited by the facilities for multiplication and of orgnisation of distribution when the seed is multiplied.

The improvement of *rabi jowar* made less progress. The work at Broach continued, and higher yielding strains are being given out, but it has not been possible even yet, to undertake the improvement of *jowar* in the great *rabi jowar* growing areas in the east and south-east of the Deccan.

The above gives an account of investigations into crops which are financed from the budget of the Agricultural Department. Other schemes for the improvement of crops have again been financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee and by the Sir Sassoon David Trustees. These include study of cotton boll shedding and the spotted boll worm at Surat, study of cotton wilt and American cotton at Dharwar, study of the physiology of the cotton plant under irrigation in Sind, the

improvement of grass lands and the bajri and mango crops and the checking of jowar stem borer.

These bodies have offered an amount of nearly Rs. 30,000 for other works not directly relating to the improvement of crops.

Improvements in Tillage and in Implement.—The tests made at the Presidency Agricultural Show indicated that the time has passed when the main question to be decided is as to the type of tractor to employ. There are now a number of extremely efficient motor tractors on the market and very good implements suited for them,—and the result is that there has become a demand for their use, as a means of cultivation more deeply and thoroughly than can be done by bullocks and also as a method of doing the work more quickly and at a time of year when it could hardly be done by bullocks. As a result large numbers of tractors have been employed by farmers in Gujarat. Most of these have been bought and used by speculators, who work on hire. A few of the larger landowners have purchased their own. But fifty or more such implements are available and ready to work in Gujarat to-day.

No such progress has been made in the Deccan and Karnatak. Some of the firms who sell tractors have undertaken demonstrations. Recently, in response to a local demand, Government have paid half the cost of a tractor and equipment bought by the Dharwar Agricultural Association and this has already found an extensive demand in their district. Still more recently a tractor equipment has been purchased for West Khandesh from funds supplied by the Sir Sassoon David Trustees, Government undertaking to pay the cost of running the tractor. The organisation of the local arrangements, including the repair of the tractor, has been undertaken by the District Local Board. Other districts, notably Bijapur, have applied for similar arrangements.

In Sind, two tractors and equipment were bought in 1926 and fairly full data are now available as to the conditions of successful work at least in Central Sind. These have been published in a recent bulletin of the Agricultural Department (No. 145) on the Sakrand Experimental Station. In Upper Sind the large Zemindars are very keen on tractor development and if demonstrations could be carried on and reliable data given to them, there would be an early and considerable demand.

The Dry Farming Station at Manjri, which was established in 1924, has now worked out methods which have given remarkably increased yields of grain, without any extra out-of-pocket cost

but only increased work on the part of the cultivator. These methods and the results have been described in a recent bulletin of the Agricultural Department.

Ridge Cultivation.—This system of cultivation, especially designed for the deep black soils of Lower Gujarat, is now rapidly extending in the Surat District. Some large landowners are converting all their property to this system. No further methods have been devised, and it is now merely a matter of extending it in areas to which it is adapted.

Manuring.—One of the most remarkable movements in recent years is the extension of the use of concentrated manures in the Bombay Presidency, most notably, in the irrigated tracts.

A large series of experiments were made in the cotton tracts of Khandesh in the year under report. They have shown the very great advantage of concentrated manures, and particularly of sulphate of ammonia, even in a bad year like the one under report.

INSECTS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PESTS

During the year under report, in addition to the usual pests and the Deccan wingless grasshoppers, the appearance of locusts in Sind, Kathiawar and Gujarat was the peculiar feature.

The Deccan wingless grasshoppers (*Colemannia*) appear to have gained more ground than that occupied last year. Last year 1925-26 they had more or less confined themselves to the southern part of the Presidency and especially the Karnatak districts of Belgaum and Dharwar, and Sangli and other States. But this year they seemed to have moved upwards towards Satara District, and some parts of Bijapur and Sholapur Districts. It would appear that last year the grasshoppers were wandering in the southern parts where they laid their eggs which hatched this year and the hoppers marched forwards. Bagging is the only mechanical method of control against these grasshoppers and a regular campaign has been started to organise bagging operations on a large scale in Satara District and the result is being watched.

Locusts.—Swarms appeared in Sind from September 1926 to February 1927 and in Kathiawar and Gujarat from December 1926 to February 1927. Several swarms operated in both areas travelling erratically. Many places were repeatedly visited, though there is no evidence that a given swarm visited the same place repeatedly. The only observed place of origin of these locusts was the Hab river-bed near Karachi, but the desert area of Thar Parkar is also a possible source. The extent of

attack is reported as 82,000 acres in Sind and 15,000 acres in Kathiawar and Gujarat. All crops suffered, but the locusts showed definite preference as regards wild plants. The traditional methods of defence against the locusts were employed by cultivators in some places with some success. The attack was at its worst everywhere in December and died out in February.

Among other pests the chillie crop has been reported to be affected by some peculiar disease which is known as Mosaic. It causes malformation of the leaves which get curled. Up to this time leaf-curl was known to be caused by two different pests—Mites and Thrips separately or even together. But it is not yet decided whether Mites and Thrips cause this malformation, or they are carriers of the Mosaic virus. The disease is under investigation.

Study of Jowar stem-borer at Surat is progressing. It has been found that two parasites, one a Dipterous fly and the other a Hymenipterous fly, have been found to be effective checks on the larvæ to the extent of 20 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively.

Calcium Cyanide recently put on the market has been very useful as a fumigant against rats. This is also under trial at Karjat against crabs in rice fields.

Lac.—The Forest Department has begun some trials to see if Lac could be successively cultivated on Forest trees such as Palas (*Buteau frondosa*), Bor (*Ziziphus jujuba*), Ghatbor (*Ziziphus, Xylopyra*) etc., and the Entomologist of the Department has been rendering the necessary technical help. The trials are being carried out in Khandesh and Gujarat. The results achieved so far are promising.

Cattle Breeding Operations and Shows.—The propaganda and work of improving the cattle in this Presidency has progressed fairly well. A new departure in cattle breeding is the starting of a small cattle breeding farm by the Taluka Development Association in Bhusawal. The people are now beginning to recognise the desirability of using good stock and that a good well bred bull is an essential to cattle improvement.

The scheme of placing bulls into villages, societies, etc., on a Premium system has progressed. The funds available for the purchase of such bulls not bred on Government farms and the bulls bred on farms do not nearly meet the demand. The improvement of cattle by the use of Premium Bulls was shown at the Poona Show.

Since the year 1922-23, the following is the progress made :—

Year	Number of bulls
1922-23	35
1923-24	27
1924-25	20
1925-26	22
1926-27	67
	171

The Gowshalas are now established farms and produce good bulls of the Gir breed. Moreover, they are now supplying milk to Bombay, and have thus been converted from homes for useless cattle to very useful progressive institutes.

The Northcote Cattle Farm for Kankrej cattle at Chharodi (district Ahmedabad) is still progressing with the yield of milk of its cows. Early maturity, which is so necessary in economical cattle raising, is receiving particular attention.

The demand for bulls from this farm cannot be met, whereas seven years ago, it was difficult to get persons to take bulls.

The Amrit Mahal Farm at Bankapur has progressed very favourably with its breeding operations of a fast draught animal. Here also the demand is greater than the farm can meet.

The Willingdon Cattle Farm, Phihai (Sind), is making headway with the milking capacity and early maturity of its herd.

Sheep breeding operations are progressing slowly, but more and more interest is being taken by the local professional sheep breeders.

Owing to the Presidency Agricultural Show, Poona, occupying the staff of this section, only one show was held other than the Presidency Show. The type and kind of cattle being shown is a great improvement on the exhibits of previous years. No fewer than eight Shows were held by different local bodies in the Satara and Dharwar districts.

Poultry.—The Central Poultry Breeding Farm at Kirkee has now been fully established, and already the quality of the pedigree Leghorn and Australorp fowls is being appreciated and a demand for cocks and for sittings of eggs is arising. A Bombay Poultry Association was established during the year, and this held its first show (which was very successful) in connection with the Presidency Agricultural Show in October 1926. The marketing of eggs and fowls has been carefully studied during the year, and at Sangli, which is one of the large egg producing centres, a Poultry Club for the marketing of eggs and fowls by weight in Bombay has been established, and is of great promise.

GODHRA SCHOOLBOYS AT WORK

[*To face page 68*

The possibilities of expansion of the poultry industry in the precarious tracts seem very great.

Investigations on Agricultural Economics.—Since the appointment of the Professor of Agricultural Economics two years ago it has been possible to undertake some very necessary investigations which could not be previously done. The main line of work undertaken has been that of the investigations of the cost of production of crops. Hitherto the main work has been done in the Deccan and the results of two enquiries respectively into the cost of production on a number of crops round Poona in 1925-26 and in 1926-27, and into that of sugarcane grown in partnership on the Varna river are being published as bulletins of the Agricultural Department.

The other line of investigation under this head is that of the actual methods of marketing in vogue in different products in different parts of the country and how this marketing of crops is financed. In this connection special enquiries are conducted by the Agricultural Department but paid for by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The results of the enquiries in Khandesh have been of great importance.

Sind Experimental Scheme.—A very fair beginning has been made with the experimental work in connection with the Sind development and especially of that portion concentrated at the Sakrand Experimental Station and it seems probable that by the time the Sukkur Barrage water is available, a very great deal more will be known about the best way of developing the barrage areas of the crops and the types of crops which will give the best returns, and of avoiding the difficulties (notably water-logging and salt) which are almost certain to arise.

The Taluka Development Association movement made considerable progress during the year under report. A year ago there were fifty-nine such associations in existence; now there are seventy-four. Subsidies amounting to Rs. 33,344 were paid to these associations in the year.

In Sind the associations have in several cases organised the local manufacture and sale of some of the simpler implements like screw water lifts and Egyptian ploughs. They have also demonstrated the value and extended the use of improved seed, notably of cotton, in many areas and of wheat in Sind.

FIRST AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The First Agricultural Show in the Bombay Presidency was held at Poona in October 1926 and was successful beyond the

expectations of its promoters. Its object was to stimulate in all classes an interest in Agriculture, to open the eyes of the cultivators to possibilities hitherto undreamt of, to bring purchasers and manufacturers into touch with each other and to let the Department of Agriculture become still better known. The show received support not merely from landholders and chiefs, but also from the public at large. The funds were liberally contributed to the show by the Ruling Chiefs and others and amounted to Rs. 2,26,000, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,19,000. During the 12 days the show remained open over 200,000 people paid it a visit.

Throughout the show the main idea kept in view was to exhibit the best that can be done in every direction in the present state of agricultural methods. In the case of machinery, for example, the cultivators were able to see the latest and best implements, both of Indian and foreign make. Moreover, they were able to see them in actual use and to discuss with competent experts the conditions under which they were likely to be most successfully employed. They were also shown the latest methods of raising water for agricultural purposes—whether by use of pumps or by bullock power—and the economic use of water was demonstrated. In the section devoted to cattle, the advantages of using the best cattle only were continually demonstrated. The possibility of the increase in milking capacity and in ploughing power was shown by some of the best animals of every breed in the Presidency. Another important section went to show the various staple crops actually growing which had been raised by the most recent improved methods. These interesting exhibits were the result of the skill of the authorities of the Agricultural College Farm, and roused considerable interest in most of the visitors to the show. The Fruit Garden and associated exhibits gave the finest illustration that has probably ever appeared in the Deccan of what can be done not only in the methods of growing fruit but of preparing it for commercial purposes.

Cottage industries and secondary occupations were a feature of the show especially the poultry section, a direct outcome of which was the establishment of a Bombay Presidency Poultry Association. A Cotton Spinning and Weaving Section was designed to show how these arts can be taken up by cottagers and cultivators. The improvements which have recently been made in hand-weaving methods for cottagers, cultivators and village weavers were demonstrated to the advantage of the cultivators. The Rural Health Section was also an important part of the show. A very fine exhibit of what could be done

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY AGRICULTURAL SHOW—MARKETING SECTION

[*To face page 70*

to improve the health of villages was put together, and this received a good deal of attention from the visitors. The show was visited by the Members of the Royal Commission on Agriculture who were full of praise and declared that it was one of the best ever seen. " It did not take me long," said the Marquess of Linlithgow, " to realise that the Poona Agricultural Show was the best show of its kind which it has ever been my good fortune to visit, alike in the number and variety of its exhibits and the masterly way in which these have been arranged."

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Agricultural College.—The Poona Agricultural College has now entered upon its nineteenth year, and it is as popular as ever. This year (1927) there are 77 students in the first year class, quite as many as the College can deal with. The total number now on the roll of the College is 220. The demand for admission from all parts of India continues, but the admission for students outside the Bombay Presidency has been limited to about ten per cent. of the total in the first year's class.

The year under report is the second during which the new University course has been in use, and on the whole it has been considered satisfactory, and an improvement on that which preceded it. Its introduction has necessitated the appointment of two additional demonstrators in the Agricultural Engineering section of the College, and of a demonstrator of Agricultural Economics.

Agricultural Schools.—The number of Vernacular Agricultural Schools working remains six as before. These are as follows, with the number of students in each :—

Marathi	..	Loni (Poona) 46, Jambul (Thana) 22 and Dhulia (West Khandesh) 32.
Kanarese	..	Devi-Hosur (Dharwar) 27.
Gujarati	..	Godhra (Panch Mahals) 23 and Surat 31.

It will be seen that the total for the six schools now amounts to 181 as against 191 a year previously. The schools are all nearly full.

They remain popular, and all receive a certain amount of support from District Local Boards and some from private bodies. The boys leaving them are in demand, and either go to their own farms or are snapped up by others who need lads with such training.

Agricultural Bias Schools.—The new type of primary schools with an agricultural bias, first established in 1922, has been extended in the year under report.

Statistics.—Forecasts are increasing in number, the latest addition being that on the castor crop started in 1924 at the request of a number of commercial firms in Bombay. There is now a demand for an additional forecast for cotton in April.

The work of compiling statistics of the cotton pressed in the Bombay Presidency was continued during the year.

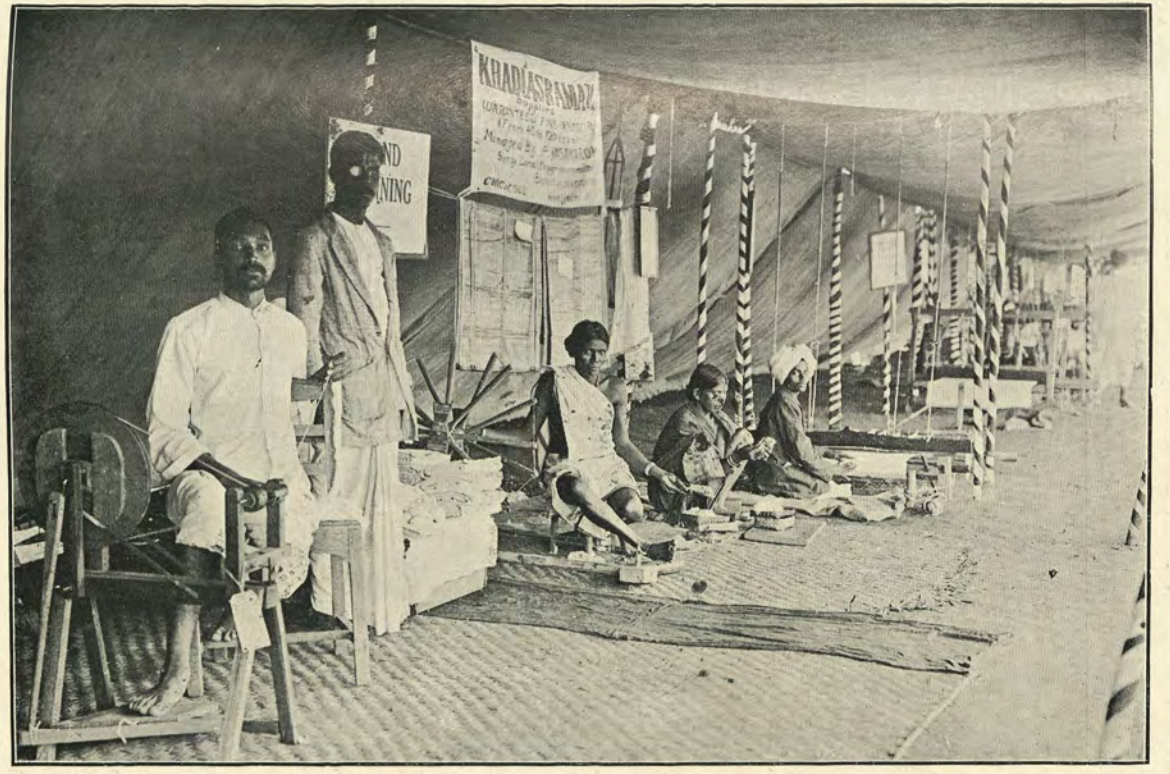
FINANCE

The expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 16·46 lakhs during the financial year 1926-27, as against Rs. 16·14 lakhs in the previous year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 2·78 lakhs as against Rs. 3·09 lakhs in the previous year.

Subsidies were received from the Indian Central Cotton Committee to the amount of Rs. 64,765 and Rs. 24,700 from the Sir Sassoon David Trustees.

NOTE ON THE WEATHER

I. The period, April and May 1926.—Six western disturbances passed into northern India during the month of April. Three of these produced during the first fortnight an unusual concentration of rainfall over the central parts of the country and practically the whole of the Peninsula excluding the west coast and the Bombay Deccan. Thunderstorms were more or less frequent in the south of the Peninsula during the latter half of the month. Rainfall was 50 per cent. in excess in Gujarat and Kathiawar and altogether absent in Sind, the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan. The western disturbances that entered India during the month of May did not affect the weather in the Peninsula, their activity being mainly confined to northwest and Central India, where there was a large excess of rainfall. One of these caused strong winds in the northeast Arabian Sea about the 11th of May. About the close of the second week a temporary advance of the monsoon occurred in the southeast of the Arabian Sea, which caused very heavy rain in Malabar on the 14th. Immediately afterwards, with the appearance of unsettled conditions in the extreme southwest of the Bay of Bengal, there was a considerable decrease of rainfall in Malabar. The monsoon did not re-appear in the southeast of the Arabian Sea till the close of the month. The rainfall exceeded twice the normal amount in Sind and thrice the normal



BOMBAY PRESIDENCY AGRICULTURAL SHOW—SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION COURT [*To face page 72*

amount in Gujarat and Kathiawar. On the other hand, it was in large defect in the Konkan and in moderate defect in the Bombay Deccan.

II. The Monsoon period, June to September 1926.— The month of June began with a few scattered thunderstorms in the Peninsula, which lasted for three days. On the 4th of June an advance of the monsoon occurred in the southeast of the Arabian Sea and moderately heavy rain fell in Malabar and undershowers occurred in Mysore and the Deccan. The permanent advance of the monsoon was established on the west coast as far north as Ratnagiri on the 8th, five days later than usual, and reached Bombay on the 10th. After a general weakening which lasted for four days, there was marked revival of the monsoon on the 25th and widespread rain fell in Malabar and the interior of the Peninsula. A shallow depression associated with this revival travelled up the east Arabian Sea and re-introduced rainfall in the Konkan on the 26th and in the Central Provinces on the 27th. With the disappearance of this depression on the 28th, the monsoon extended into Gujarat and Rajputana. During the month the activity of the monoon was mainly confined to the west coast of the Peninsula and Gujarat. A few local storms, more or less severe in intensity, occurred during the month associated with the setting in or the strengthening of the monsoon in the Peninsula. One of these, which was of great severity, swept over the town of Dhanduka in Kathiawar in the second week of the month and caused considerable damage to cattle, trees and buildings as well as the derailment of several bogie railway carriages. The total rainfall of the month was in defect by 25 per cent. in the Konkan, by 30 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan and 72 per cent. in Gujarat and Kathiawar. There was no rainfall in Sind. The principal feature during the month of July was a general strengthening of the monsoon currents, which gave fairly good rain all over the country. A depression, which formed at the head of the Bay in the beginning of the month, caused strong monsoon and squally weather off the Konkan and Kathiawar coasts and produced widespread and locally heavy rain in the Peninsula and the central parts of the country, the notable falls being Nagpur 5″ on 4th and 4″ on 7th, Jubbulpore and Belgaum 5″ and 6″ respectively on the latter date, and Bombay 5″ on the 8th. Newspapers report that a district in the Baroda State received 32″ in two successive days and Manawadar in Kathiawar 18″ on one day during this period. A low pressure area off Kathiawar caused locally heavy rain there and re-introduced monsoon conditions into Gujarat and Rajputana. At the end of the

month both branches of the monsoon were vigorous over their respective fields. As a consequence of strong monsoon, floods occurred in Kathiawar, where a village was reported to have been partly washed away causing loss of lives. Streets were flooded in Bombay after the heavy rainfall on the 8th. The total rainfall of the month was 52 per cent. in excess in Gujarat and 28 per cent. in defect in Sind ; it was nearly normal in the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan. The month of August began with a vigorous monsoon over the Peninsula and the central parts of the country. Rainfall was heavy in the Konkan on the 3rd when Ratnagiri had 11″. A depression, which formed in the northwest of the Bay of Bengal on the 6th, travelled westwards across the Central Provinces and Gujarat and disappeared in the northeast Arabian Sea on the 11th. It produced widespread rain in the Peninsula and the central parts of the country and caused an extension of rainfall in Sind and Baluchistan between 8th and 10th.

The principal feature of the month's rainfall was a large excess all over the Presidency. It was 102 per cent. in Sind, 95 per cent. in Gujarat and Kathiawar, 75 per cent. in the Konkan and 59 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan. In September abnormally heavy rain fell in Gujarat, Central India and Lower Sind which caused extensive floods in those areas. The trough of low pressure which was lying over the tract extending from the head of the Bay to Rajputana at the end of the previous month concentrated into a depression over southeast Rajputana on the 1st September. It moved west-south-westwards, reaching the neighbourhood of Bhuj on the morning of the 3rd, by which time it had developed into a storm. The storm then entered the northeast Arabian Sea and subsequently passed inland near Karachi on the 5th. It caused rough weather in the northeast Arabian Sea, winds of gale force or above being reported from that area, and heavy rain in Rajputana on the 1st and 2nd, in Gujarat on the 2nd and 3rd and at Karachi between 4th and 6th. Deesa and Mount Abu reported 6″ and 14″ respectively on the 2nd, Bhuj 7″ on the 3rd and Karachi 14″ (or nearly twice the amount of its annual normal rainfall) from the afternoon of the 4th to the morning of the 6th. The monsoon, on the whole, was weak in the Peninsula during the first week, but revived on the 9th and gave a few heavy falls of rain there. About the middle of the month there was abundant rainfall in Gujarat and the Peninsula due to the passage of a storm across the Bay into Orissa. Simultaneously with the development of this storm, the weather became unsettled in the

southeast Arabian Sea and a depression formed off the north Konkan on the 15th. It developed into a storm off Veraval the next day and hovering inland over Kathiawar and later at sea off west Kathiawar and Cutch, passed inland on the 21st between Karachi and Dwarka becoming unimportant thereafter. It gave continuous and widespread rain in Gujarat during its existence. Veraval received 11″ on the 15th and Junagadh 12″ on the 17th. The s.s. " Revati " ran aground on the sandy beach near Mahuwa in the gulf of Cambay owing to bad weather there in connection with this storm. Towards the end of the month the southwest monsoon began to withdraw from northern and central India and a temporary advance of the northeast monsoon appeared in Madras. The rainfall of the month was nearly thirteen times the normal amount in Sind and four times the normal amount in Gujarat and Kathtiawar ; it was normal in the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan.

III. The Retreating Monsoon period, October to December 1926.—In October the Arabian Sea monsoon practically withdrew from its field of activity and the weather remained dry in northwest India. The northeast monsoon was week in the Peninsula except in the extreme south. The western disturbances were but few and feeble. Thundershowers were numerous in the south of the Peninsula on the first three days. They decreased considerably during the next five days and having re-appeared on the 9th continued till the 18th with occasional extensions northwards. Rainfall was in large defect in the Konkan, the Bombay Deccan and Gujarat and altogether absent in Sind. Weather in the south of the Peninsula was during the first week of November dominated by the occurrence of a storm in the south of the Bay of Bengal. It passed westwards into the Arabian Sea and gave copious rain in the south of the Peninsula. Weather remained practically dry in the Peninsula and northwest India during the remainder of the month. Winter conditions were established early in the month and the western disturbances, though less active than usual, caused persisent low temperature over northern and central India. The Rainfall of the month was 69 per cent. in defect in the Bombay Deccan and 98 per cent. in the Konkan. The weather was absolutely dry in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Sind. The weather in the north of the Peninsula was dry in December.

IV. The period, January to March 1927.—In January dry settled weather prevailed over the Presidency, excluding Sind. Rainfall was 85 per cent. in defect in Sind ; over the rest

of the Presidency the weather was wholly dry. Rainfall during February was 79 per cent. in excess in Sind, 36 per cent. in Gujarat and Kathiawar and in large defect in the Konkan, weather being absolutely dry in the Bombay Deccan, while in March it was in large defect in the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan and altogether absent in Sind, Gujarat and Kathiawar.

PRICES

Retail Prices.—In March 1927, the prices of food-grains in the Presidency showed a rise as compared with the corresponding month last year. With the exception of the Northern Division the unweighted index number* of the prices of six food-grains† recorded a rise in each of the Divisions and in Bombay City. The retail prices of the eleven articles‡ included in the index for the "Other food" group showed a downward tendency except in the case of Bombay City.

Northern Division.—The index number for food-grains was 143 in March 1927, a decrease of 4 points as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. All the districts in this Division, with the exception of Surat where prices were stationary, reported a downward tendency in the prices of food-grains. The price of gram ruled high in the Panch Mahals district owing to the failure of the rabi crop in the previous year. The prices of pulses and ghee increased in Ahmedabad. Ghee and milk remained almost stationary in the other districts. In Thana, rice was slightly cheaper than in the previous year but the price of nagli was high. The price of fodder was steady at Kaira throughout the year.

Central Division.—An upward tendency was noticeable in the prices of food-grains in all the districts of this Division and the index stood at 141 in March 1927 as against 137 a year before. The prices of food-grains were steady at Nasik and Satara but recorded a rise in the Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Poona districts. There was a marked rise in the price of turdal, gram and wheat in Poona, while the prices of all the principal staple food-grains except bajri increased in Ahmednagar owing to a condition of general scarcity. In the Sholapur district

* Arithmetical averages. The price quotations used are those printed in the *Bombay Government Gazette.*

† Food-grains included are :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal.

‡ Other food articles included are :—Sugar refined, raw sugar, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions and cocoanut oil.

the outturn of kharif crops was fair but the rabi crops suffered somewhat for want of rain. A general rise in the prices of all food-grains except bajri was noticed. In East Khandesh jowari and bajri were cheaper but the prices of gram, turdal and wheat increased. The supply of fodder was adequate at Satara and the prices of kadbi ranged from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 per hundred sheaves during the year.

Southern Division.—There were no marked fluctuations in the prices of food-grains in this Division but the index of retail food-grain prices rose to 143 in March 1927 from 138 in the corresponding month of the preceding year. The price of turdal rose in Dharwar owing to inadequate imports and the failure of the crop in the district. Chillies were slightly dearer in Belgaum. Cocoanuts were cheaper in Kanara. The other three garden products of the Kanara district, *viz.*, betel-nut, cardamom and pepper, recorded a rise in prices. In the Ratnagiri district there was a small rise in the price of pulses but ghee was slightly cheaper. Salt and nagli remained almost stationary.

Sind.—The index number for food-grains in March 1927 was only 2 points above the level of the corresponding month in the previous year which was 144. There was a decline in the price of wheat and a rise in the price of rice. The price of wheat fell owing to less demand from outside, a larger area having been brought under cultivation and a large quantity made available from the Punjab. The increase in the price of rice was due to a general shrinkage in the area under cultivation owing to the late inundation of the river. Jowari became dearer in Larkana and the Upper Sind Frontier, but was steady at Sukkur. There was a fall in the price of seed cotton in Thar and Parkar. In Karachi there was an appreciable decrease in the price of fodder.

Bombay City.—The general level of retail prices of food-grains (142) was higher by 10 points as compared with March 1926. The " Other food " index number stood at 186 as against 184 in the previous year, and was more or less stationary during the period under review. The working class cost of living index number* which takes into account food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house rent, remained steady at 155 in March 1927. The following tables give the unweighted

* A discussion on the scope and method of the index number will be found in the September 1921 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The index number is published each month in the *Labour Gazette*.

index numbers of the prices of six food-grains and eleven other food articles :—

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of food-grains*

July 1914 = 100

Divisions	March 1925	March 1926	March 1927
Northern Division	138	147	143
Central Division	139	137	141
Southern Division	137	138	143
Sind	137	144	146
Presidency (excluding Bombay City)	137	141	144
Bombay City	136	132	142

*Food-grains included are :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of other food articles†

July 1914 = 100

Divisions	March 1925	March 1926	March 1927
Northern Division	173	167	165
Central Division	166	158	149
Southern Division	169	158	156
Sind	171	169	166
Presidency (excluding Bombay City)	169	163	158
Bombay City	187	184	186

† Other food articles included are :—Sugar refined, raw sugar, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions and cocoanut oil.

Wholesale Prices.—Wholesale prices in Bombay City fluctuated greatly during the year under review. Though the "All food" index number remained stationary at 144, there was a distinct rise in pulses which was counterbalanced by a fall in sugar and the "other food" group. Oilseeds rose by 17 points and raw cotton showed an upward tendency up to October 1926, but fell during the latter part of the year. The other groups included under "All non-foods" recorded a fall with the exception of "metals" and "other raw and manufactured articles" which rose

by 5 and 8 points respectively. The non-food index number stood at 149 as against 154 for the corresponding month of the previous year, and the general index number declined by 2 points from 150 to 148 in March 1927. The changes in the index numbers of the different groups included in the Bombay Wholesale Prices Index* are set out in the following table :—

Group Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay City

July 1914 = 100

Groups	March 1925	March 1926	March 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in points in March 1927 over or below March 1926
Cereals	154	148	148	..
Pulses	99	117	133	+16
Sugar	175	146	135	−11
Other food	219	152	149	−3
All food	164	144	144	..
Oil seeds	136	127	144	+17
Raw cotton	209	144	132	−12
Cotton manufactures	212	186	163	−23
Other textiles	160	145	134	−11
Hides and skins	145	147	137	−10
Metals	162	151	156	+5
Other raw and manufactured articles ..	166	153	161	+8
All non-foods	174	154	149	−5
All articles	171	150	148	−2

In Broach, the prices of seed cotton (kapas) and ginned cotton fluctuated greatly owing to the pronounced variations in the Bombay Market. The price of seed cotton fell from Rs. 220 to Rs. 165 per bhar but again rose to Rs. 220 in March 1927. Clean cotton was available at Rs. 345 per bhar (24 maunds of 40 lbs. each) in the beginning of the year, but the rate rose to Rs. 400. The lowest price recorded was Rs. 280 per bhar in January 1927. The price of clean cotton in Surat fell from

* Published each month in the *Labour Gazette.*

Rs. 49-11-8 to Rs. 38-11-10 per Indian maund during the year under review. In West Kandesh, the price of clean cotton declined from Rs. 40 to Rs. 22 per Indian maund. Timber in Thana showed a downward tendency.

As compared with March 1926 the wholesale prices in Karachi showed a general downward tendency. The food index fell by 7 points and stood at 137 in March 1927, which was the lowest level reached during the preceding 12 months. The "Non-food" and the general index numbers declined by 3 and 5 points respectively and stood at 137 in March 1927.

The following table shows the food, non-food and general index numbers of wholesale prices in Karachi* :—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Karachi

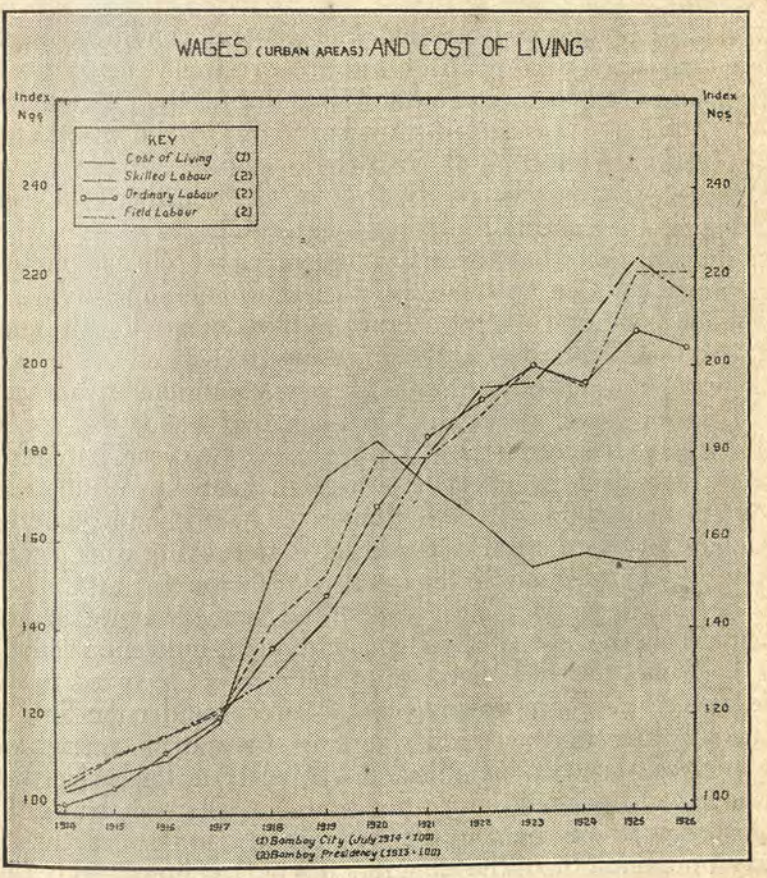
July 1914 = 100

Groups	March 1925	March 1926	March 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (—) in points in March 1927 over or below March 1926
Food	151	144	137	—7
Non-food	162	140	137	—3
All articles	158	142	137	—5

LABOUR AND WAGES

The almost invariable upward trend of mofussil wages since the beginning of the war now appears to have reached its peak. The position during the year under review shows that, with the exception of a small increase in the rates of wages of skilled labour in rural areas and slight increases in particular centres, wages in general of all classes of labour, both in urban and in rural areas, were either stationary or slightly on the decline as compared with the previous year. The purchasing power of the rupee on the basis of the Cost of Living Index for Working Classes in Bombay City, as compared with July 1914, fell from ten annas and five pies for the twelve months ending 31st March 1926 to ten annas and four pies for the twelve months ending 31st March 1927. Expressed in terms of percentages the Cost of Living Index rose from 154 to 155. As compared with the pre-war year the index numbers for the daily average rates of

* Published each month in the *Labour Gazette*.


WAGES (URBAN AREAS) AND COST OF LIVING
Index Nos
Index Nos
KEY
Cost of Living (1)
Skilled Labour (2)
Ordinary Labour (2)
Field Labour (2)
240
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
(1) Bombay City (July 1914 = 100)
(2) Bombay Presidency (1913 = 100)

wages of different classes of labour in urban and rural areas during the year 1926, for the whole Presidency, were as follows :—

	Urban areas	Rural areas
Field Labour	221	194
Ordinary Labour	204	181
Skilled Labour	216	215

The above figures suggest that the general condition of the labouring classes, in comparison with the pre-war year, continued to remain as satisfactory as what it was during the previous two or three years. This statement is borne out by the reports sent in by various Collectors of Districts.

The report from Thana District in the Northern Division states that the condition of the labouring classes on the whole is improving but that there is no appreciable change in their economic condition as they waste their earnings in drink. The economic condition of the Ratnagiri District is closely bound up with that of Bombay City and owing to the trade depression in Bombay during the year under review conditions in Ratnagiri were not so good as usual. On the other hand, the general depression in the cotton trade during the last two years is reported not to have had any effect on wages in East Khandesh where the rates showed no signs of declining. The economic condition of labour in this district is stated to be improving with a corresponding improvement in the standard of living. The Collector of the district adds that it cannot be denied, however, that labour is cheap and that there is an abundant indigenous supply. In the Satara District migration to the cities is reported to have had the effect of improving the labourers' understanding and ability to manage their own affairs as a result of contact with the more advanced populations, but this last factor is also stated to have had the effect of creating more expensive habits of life. The report from the Sukkur District in Sind states that the economic condition of the labourers has not yet improved because the purchasing power of their wages has not increased. The social status of the labourer is said to be the same as before although wages are somewhat higher.

With the exception of the usual migration to Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur and to the two Khandesh Districts during the cotton season, there was no inter-divisional migration worth mentioning in the Presidency Proper during the year although inter-district migration continued as usual. Nasik District reported that recruitment for the Assam Tea Plantations continued during the year under review and that 1,223 men,

women and children had so far been recruited from this district. In Sind conditions as regards migration have altered to some extent in view of the continuous demand for labour on the Lloyd Barrage. Owing to the unfavourable inundation many labourers and Haris (tenants) went to Sukkur in search of work on the Barrage. The immigration of Tharis, Marwaris and Pathans into the Hyderabad District produced a temporary decline in wages, but there was not the same immigration of these tribes as usual because the Tharis and Marwaris had good showers of rain in their own country and were busily engaged there.

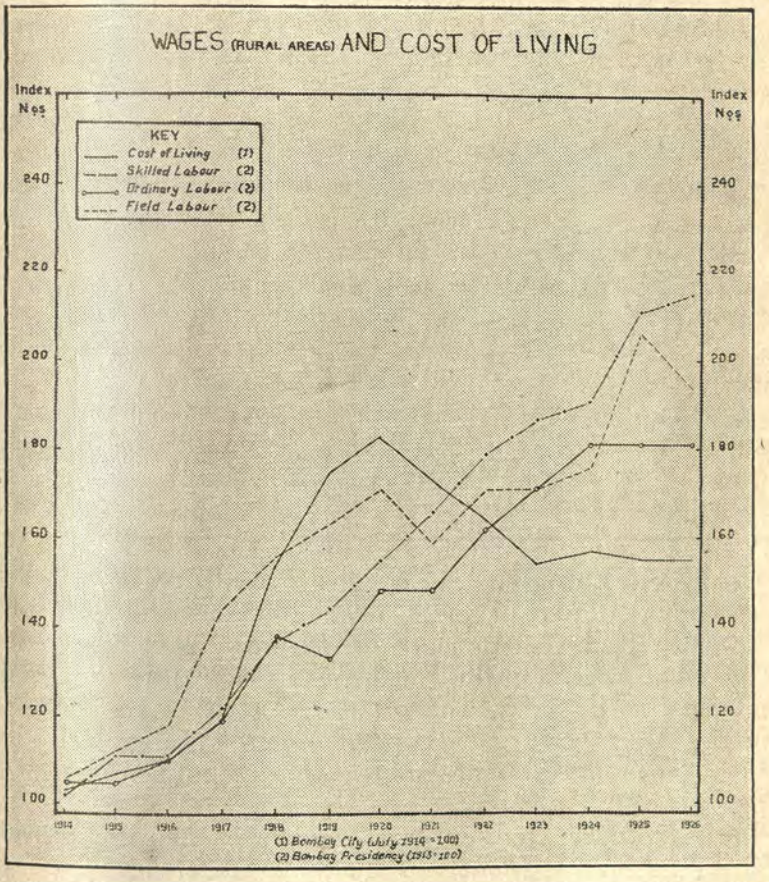
Agricultural Labour.—With the exception of Ahmedabad and Thana Districts where field labour continued to be scarce and costly owing to its diversion to the cities of Ahmedabad and Bombay for employment in the more remunerative non-agricultural industries, the position regarding this class of labour in the other districts of the Northern Division was easier than what it was during the previous three or four years. In the Panch Mahals the rates continued fairly steady at eight annas per day throughout the year as compared with eight annas to a rupee per day demanded and paid in the previous year. This is stated to have been due to a release of workers owing to a lull in building operations. In the Broach District the usual scarcity was felt in the Broach, Ankleshwar and Hansot Talukas where the rates of wages prevailing in the previous year were maintained; but field labourers in the remaining talukas could only earn six to twelve annas per day, according to seasonal demand, as against eight annas to a rupee per day in the year 1925. Owing to the constant migration to Bombay City and its suburbs for employment on the remodelling of the various stations and the permanent-way of the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways consequent on electrification, agricultural labour in the Thana District was scarce, and especially so during the transplanting season and at the time of grass cutting when outside labour had to be imported. Wages in this district ranged normally from eight to twelve annas per day.

In the Southern Division there was the usual difficulty in securing labour for agricultural operations in the above-Ghat Talukas of the Kanara District. In the Yellapur Taluka the wages of field labourers were high as labour was drawn off on Forest Contract work. In Haliyal the rates fell slightly owing to immigration from the Bijapur and Dharwar Districts on account of scarcity. Labour in the Coast Talukas was, however, abundant. In the Belgaum District the condition of

agricultural labourers in the *Mallad* (hilly tracts) was as usual good, but in the Desh (plains) employment was not easily available owing to the nature of the season and wages were low especially in Athni, Gokak and the Eastern parts of Saundatti. Tagai works were encouraged in certain parts of the district and these gave employment where it was badly needed. Field labour was in great demand during the year in the Bijapur District as many cultivators constructed Wads (field embankments) with the help of tagavi advances. Many agricultural labourers from parts of Navalgund and Hubli Talukas in the Dharwar District had to migrate to other talukas and towns in search of work owing to the unfavourable season. The work of destroying prickly-pear continued in all parts of the third sub-division of this district during the year under review.

There was ample employment available for agricultural labourers in the fields of the East Khandesh District of the Central Division from June to January. From February to June they were engaged in bringing in head-loads of grass and fuel and in sundry work such as house building, road-making, etc. In the Peint Taluka of the Nasik District ample employment was offered during the off season in the operations of the Forest Department. In the Poona District, agriculturists in Mulshi and Mawal found it difficult to obtain labour for their fields at ordinary rates of pay owing to the great demand from the Tata Hydro-Electric Works where better wages were paid. There was some migration from the villages of the Eastern Division to the irrigated tracts and to other busy centres owing to the failure in the crops due to a deficient monsoon. On the other hand, a more favourable season in the adjacent district of Satara improved the wages of field labourers. There was ample work in the Karad and Patan Talukas of this district where the harvesting of the groundnut crop demanded a large supply of labour. Wages remained stationary in the Sholapur and the West Khandesh Districts and fell slightly in the Ahmednagar District.

In the Sind Division agricultural wages remained stationary in the Karachi District, registered a slight increase in Thar and Parkar, and fell slightly in the Sukkur and Nawabshah Districts, in the latter of which the fall was due firstly to a fall in the prices of food stuffs and secondly to less migration. The following table gives the average daily wages of field labourers in the neighbourhood of district headquarters towns (Urban Areas) and in the more Rural Areas by Divisions and Economic Circles and for the Presidency with and without Sind.


WAGES (RURAL AREAS) AND COST OF LIVING
Index Nos
Index Nos
KEY
Cost of Living (1)
Skilled Labour (2)
Ordinary Labour (2)
Field Labour (2)
240
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
(1) Bombay City (July 1914 = 100)
(2) Bombay Presidency (1913 = 100)

FIELD LABOUR

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1925		1926	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 4 9	0 3 9	0 12 0	0 9 9	0 12 3	0 10 0
Central Division ..	0 5 0	0 4 3	0 10 3	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 8 0
Southern Division ..	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 8 9	0 7 6	0 8 9	0 6 0
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 4 6	0 3 9	0 10 9	0 10 3	0 11 9	0 10 6
Deccan Circle ..	0 4 6	0 4 0	0 9 6	0 7 6	0 9 3	0 6 9
Konkan Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 6	0 12 6	0 9 3	0 11 6	0 9 0
Presidency Proper ..	0 4 9	0 4 0	0 10 3	0 8 3	0 10 3	0 8 0
Sind ..	0 7 9	0 8 0	1 0 9	1 1 9	1 0 0	1 0 6
Whole Presidency ..	0 4 9	0 4 3	0 10 6	0 8 9	0 10 6	0 8 3

Unskilled Labour.—Taking the Presidency as a whole, the wages of ordinary or unskilled labourers fell slightly in urban areas and remained stationary in rural areas as compared with the previous year. In the Northern Division there were slight increases both in urban and rural areas, but in the Southern Division the average daily rates in urban areas fell from eleven annas and six pies to ten annas and six pies or by 9 per cent.

In the Northern Division wages were lower than the previous year in the Panch Mahals as building operations were very much restricted owing to the general depression in trade and tightness of the money market except in the Dohad and Jhalod Talukas where they remained stationary owing to an extensive demand for labour for railway construction work at Dohad. The Manganese Mines at Shivrajpur and Bamankua continued to attract a large number of workers from various adjoining tracts. In the Broach District some labour had to be imported by the local mills and the ginning factories and presses as usual. Unskilled labour continued to be scarce in the Thana District owing to the migration to Bombay. The

rice and brick factories and the timber and charcoal works gave employment at good wages to all who wanted work in this district.

In the Southern Division, local labour in the Kolaba District was mostly employed in agricultural operations and the labour required for the higher types of unskilled work had to be imported from outside. In the Belgaum District, construction work on the Miraj-Pandharpur Railway, the building of the Ugar and Jagnur Railway Stations and Public Works Department road repair work provided ample employment for ordinary labourers in the Athni and Gokak Talukas. The Gokak Falls and the other cotton mills, gins and presses attracted the usual number of labourers from outside during the cotton season.

There was a great demand for unskilled labour in the two Khandesh Districts of the Central Division during the cotton season and ordinary labourers were able to earn as much as fourteen annas per day from December to March. During the rest of the year, the Spinning and Weaving mills at Jalgaon, Amalner and Chalisgaon and the Railway workshops at Bhusawal afforded full scope for the employment of this class of labour. In the Nasik District there was ample work available in the Railway workshops at Igatpuri, Manmad and Nandgaon in general earth work on the permanent-way, in the building of the Nasik Jail and the Security Printing Press, in the Pressing and Ginning Factories in Malegaon, Nandgaon and Satara, the bidi manufacture at Sinnai and in the gold and silver thread industry at Yeola. In the Satara District a certain number of labourers found employment on the Bhatgar Dam and the Vita Water Supply Construction Works. Surplus labour in the Sholapur District was utilised on railway and canal construction, but in the Poona District the supply was equal to the demand in all talukas.

In Sind the demand for unskilled labour in the Karachi District was satisfactorily met as a consequence of the usual immigration from Cutch and other parts of Sind. In the Sukkur District there was continuous employment throughout the year on the works in connection with the Lloyd Barrage. The Pathans who immigrated into the Hyderabad District found ample employment on the excavation of the Barrage Canals. The following table shows the daily average wages of unskilled labourers in District Headquarter towns (Urban Areas) and in certain Taluka towns, one in each district (Rural Areas), in the same way as in the case of field labourers.

BOMBAY, 1926-27

UNSKILLED ORDINARY LABOUR

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1925		1926	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 5 3	0 4 3	0 14 6	0 10 3	0 14 9	0 10 6
Central Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 10 0	0 8 3	0 9 9	0 8 0
Southern Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 9	0 11 6	0 8 3	0 10 6	0 8 3
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 0	0 14 3	0 10 3	0 14 3	0 10 6
Deccan Circle ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 10 6	0 7 9	0 9 9	0 7 6
Konkan Circle ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 12 9	0 10 0	0 12 6	0 10 0
Presidency Proper ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 11 9	0 8 9	0 11 9	0 8 9
Sind ..	0 8 0	0 7 3	1 1 0	0 12 3	1 0 9	0 12 3
Whole Presidency ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 13 0	0 9 6	0 12 9	0 9 6

Skilled Labour—Skilled labourers in the Northern Division were not only able to maintain the satisfactory position as regards wages which they had secured in the year 1925 but were able to improve it slightly in the year under review both in urban and in rural areas. In the Central Division, artisans in rural areas earned slightly more than they did in the previous year but in urban areas wages were somewhat lower. In the urban areas of the Southern Division the daily average cash wage fell from Rs. 1-9-6 to Rs. 1-5-0 or by 18 per cent. The fall is attributed to less demand for skilled labourers for purposes of house building and general construction work. In Sind, the average rates have continued almost stationary. An actual dearth in the supply of artisans was felt only in the Thana District of the Northern Division which suffered as a result of the migration of almost all available skilled labour to Bombay City for employment in the rebuilding of the local railway stations as a result of the electrification of the local sections of both the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways. The skilled labourers who remained in Thana were therefore able to earn Rs. 3 per day with ease. The following table shows the daily average wages of this class in the same way as in the two preceding tables.

SKILLED LABOUR

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1925		1926	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	2 2 3	2 0 0	2 3 3	2 0 6
Central Division ..	0 13 0	0 10 6	1 10 0	1 4 0	1 9 3	1 5 3
Southern Division ..	0 10 9	0 9 9	1 9 6	1 1 9	1 5 0	1 2 0
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 13 6	0 11 9	2 0 9	1 15 3	2 2 0	1 15 9
Deccan Circle ..	0 11 9	0 10 0	1 9 6	1 2 0	1 6 9	1 3 0
Konkan Circle ..	0 13 9	0 11 3	2 0 9	1 13 6	2 0 9	1 13 3
Presidency Proper ..	0 12 6	0 10 9	1 12 3	1 7 0	1 11 0	1 7 9
Sind ..	1 4 6	1 2 0	2 10 6	2 1 0	2 10 9	2 0 6
Whole Presidency ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	1 14 9	1 8 9	1 13 9	1 9 3

The charts attached illustrate the tendency referred to in the first paragraph of this article.

FORESTS

For purposes of administration the Presidency is divided into four Forest Circles, which are in charge of Conservators. The Chief Conservator is at the head of the Department.

Forest administration is a branch of the general administration and the central authority in forest matters is the Commissioner of a Division, subject to the general orders of Government. The Chief Conservator is the local and technical head of the Forest Department and the technical adviser of Government in forest matters. Forest Officers in charge of Circles have full powers in all professional operations of technical forestry ; but in all other matters, such as those of rights and privileges of the people in forests, local supply of grass, grazing and fodder and generally as regards the relation of the department with the people, control vests in the local revenue officers. A Working Plans Division is maintained in each Circle and the duties of the working plans divisional officers are to ascertain the capabilities of the

forests in the production of timber and other forest produce and to prepare scientific schemes for the exploitation of the forests so that they may be worked for the greatest benefit both of the State and the people. The work in connection with the preparation of working plans is generally well advanced, but revision of plans is carried on continuously. The classification of forests into forest proper, fuel and fodder reserves and pastures has been completed in all Circles and the areas classed as pastures have been transferred to the Revenue Department for management.

The area under " Forests " in this Presidency is nearly 15,000 square miles.

The year was a successful one financially and good progress was made with works of development and improvement. The gross revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 76·56 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 1·30 lakhs over the figure of the previous year and of Rs. 3·93 lakhs over the average of the preceding five years. The expenditure rose by Rs. 1·89 lakhs to Rs. 43·86 lakhs.

Communications.—Construction work was in progress on 117 miles of new roads and repairs were carried out on 935 miles of old roads. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 2·12 lakhs as against Rs. 2·42 lakhs in the previous year. More export roads are urgently needed to tap the valuable teak forests of the Dangs and Peint where much good timber is locked up and going to waste. Metalled roads are needed to stand heavy timber traffic.

The total number of offences against the Forest Laws increased by 2,500 to 20,800, but only 619 cases were decided in courts and of these 561 or 91 per cent. resulted in convictions. 17,048 cases were compounded and compensation amounting to Rs. 1·57 lakhs was recovered in 16,512 cases. Protection from fire was better than last year. The area burnt decreased from 406 to 309 square miles.

" It was found," says the Chief Conservator, " that communal punishments for notoriously bad fires had the desired effects on the general attitude of the people, and that the villagers punished were prompt subsequently in rendering help in putting out fires and in taking precautions to prevent fires and illicit cuttings. The publication of fire and other special notices regarding the protection of the regenerated areas from fire and cattle in all forest villages was of value and the improved results of the year may be said to be partly due to the healthy impression created by these efforts. But behind the advice and warnings lay the fear of ' communal punishments ' which

gave point to the first named and created a healthy stimulus to what may be termed village public opinion." The pecuniary loss as the result of Forest offences is enormous. The Chief Conservator gives a low estimate of Rs. 31 lakhs and points out that the damage was mainly done by the villagers living in the vicinity of the forests who are given free and concession grants to the extent of over Rs. 10 lakhs.

Protection from Cattle.—The forest areas open and closed to grazing were as follows :—

	Sq. miles	Per cent.
Closed to all animals for the whole year	2,096	14·01
Closed to all animals for part of the year	304	2·03
Open to all animals except browsers for the whole year	8,489	56·76
Open to all animals for the whole year	4,068	27·20
	14,957	

The area open to grazing was nearly everywhere sufficient, and closure was relaxed as usual in cases of hardship.

Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands. About 134,000 animals were impounded for unauthorised grazing in open and closed forests and 540,600 animals were allowed free. The grazing fees collected during the year amounted to Rs. 5·31 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5·11 lakhs last year, the value at full rates being Rs. 21·37 lakhs.

Exploitation.—During the year 4,638,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted departmentally together with sandalwood worth Rs. 1,20,000 and minor produce, grass, etc., to the value of Rs. 20,000.

The actual outturn of major and minor produce removed by consumers and purchasers during the year 1926-27 was :—

Major Produce	Rs.
(1) Timber—3,766,000 cubic feet, valued at..	24,88,000
(2) Fuel—36,603,000 cubic feet, valued at ..	6,73,000
Minor Produce	
(3) Bamboos—valued at	1,40,000
(4) Grass and Grazing—valued at ..	7,68,000
(5) Other minor produce—valued at ..	2,22,000
making a total for minor produce of ..	11,30,000

The outturn from all sources of forest produce during 1926-27 was :—

	Cubic feet
Timber	5,532,000
Fuel	50,155,000

The total expenditure on the management of State Forests was Rs. 17,77,000 against Rs. 17,30,000 in the previous year. The increase was due to more expenditure on roads and buildings in the Northern and Southern Circles.

Famine Grass Operations.—Nearly 70 lakhs lbs. of grass were baled and stored at Godhra, Dohad and Palghar under the famine fodder schemes financed from famine funds bringing the amount stored at these three depots up to 159¼ lakhs lbs. In the beginning of the year a good demand for grass arose and most of the old grass was sold. The famine grass stores in West Khandesh were also sold off during the year. The famine grass operations in the Central Circle have been stopped, but it has been settled that those in the Northen Circle should be continued to the end of the present nine years contract period, *i.e.*, till and including the year 1929-30.

The earnings of the Alnavar-Dandeli Railway during the year amounted to Rs. 71,000, with an expenditure of Rs. 47,000. There was therefore a net profit of Rs. 24,000. This is the first time the Railway has given a profit and it was due to the increased export of timber and manganese from Dandeli.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The progress of the movement continued to be satisfactory. The total number of societies towards the end of the year was 5,091, an increase of 435 over the figure for the previous year. The prices of cotton and gur again affected the Co-operative Movement. The low price of cotton was unprecedented and the effect was chiefly felt in Khandesh where the crop is sold very early and the growers did not, therefore, benefit by the slight increase in price towards the end of the season. The low prices of gur again helped to swell the arrears in the canal societies of the Deccan. The figure of overdues was 22·3 per cent.

In the case of agricultural credit societies progress was steady and the previous rate of automatic expansion was maintained. The increase of societies in the Deccan and other famine areas is discouraged and new societies are not registered without taking every precaution to ensure their success. An exception has been made in the case of Bijapur District where several tracts

had hitherto been untouched. The number of societies in that district rose from 136 to 161.

The number of primary agricultural credit societies increased from 3,615 to 4,022. Membership increased from 239,000 to 260,000 and the working capital was Rs. 3½ crores as against Rs. 3 crores last year. The Reserve Fund stood at Rs. 34,60,000. In Ahmedabad and most part of Kaira the movement is stagnant. The talukdari conditions in the former and wholesale arrears in the latter prevent further progress for the present. Broach and North Surat are already well developed and the societies on the whole are efficient. In Panch Mahals there has been marked progress, while co-operation is flourishing and progressing in the two Khandesh districts. In South Satara the number of societies and the enthusiasm are striking. In Walva Taluka only two or three villages have not got societies and in some there are two or more. The worst societies are in Poona and North Satara. The Karnatic continues to be the main centre of co-operative activity. There is however a noticeable deterioration in the older societies in Dharwar District. In the Konkan except for Kanara and including Thana, co-operation is in its infancy. The best agricultural credit societies are in Sind.

Unauthorized arrears for the whole Province amounted to Rs. 82 lakhs out of Rs. 284 lakhs due for repayment during the year. The increase is somewhat serious and the heavy overdues in the Deccan are a matter of concern. The immediate causes of the large arrears are the marked fall in the price of gur in the canal areas and of cotton in other parts.

The number of agricultural non-credit societies—a side of the movement still in an early stage—increased from 253 to 264. The most important continue to be those for the sale of the produce of agriculturists. There were 53 of which 31 were cotton sale societies. The Hubli, Gadag and Haveri Sale Societies, which between them comprise almost the whole district within their sphere of operations, sold cotton of the value of Rs. 8¾, 4¼ and ¾ lakhs respectively. In Gujarat, 16 cotton sale societies were working and they together sold cotton of the value of Rs. 13½ lakhs. The boycott of the Gadag Cotton Sale Society by the local merchants was renewed with greater force, but owing to the intervention of the Registrar and the help of the Provincial Co-operative Bank the difficulty was tided over and the situation is for the present quiet. Of the other sale societies the Haveli Taluka Sale Society selling chiefly gur continued to do good work and sold produce worth Rs. 2¾ lakhs. The Barsi Taluka Sale Society and the Kurduwadi Union selling

all kinds of produce made strenuous efforts to establish themselves, but were not able to do a large volume of business owing to the opposition of the local merchants. The Nipani Tobacco Sale Society sold tobacco of the value of Rs. 21,000. The Byadgi Chilly Society sold chillies of the value of Rs. 2¼ lakhs and made a profit of nearly Rs. 5,000. The Kumta Betelnut Sale Society sold produce amounting to Rs. 1½ lakhs. The Malir Potato Sale Society is one of the interesting of the sale societies and its sales rose during the year from Rs. 57,000 to Rs. 1,24,000.

Of the land improvement societies the Yelvigi Waddars' Society in Dharwar is very prominent. During the year 80 out of 210 acres of waste land assigned by Government were brought under cultivation. Of the irrigation societies the Mutta, Salukatta and Tumblekatta Dam Construction Societies in Kanara continued to do good work. Only three out of 18 Cattle Breeding Societies deserve mention. Two are in Dharwar District at Siddenur and Alur and one is at Ainapur in the Belgaum District. Power pump societies have proved a failure and all have been cancelled except one at Anklav.

It was decided that it should be the policy to encourage Taluka Development Associations to register themselves under the Co-operative Societies Act, and all are registered except in Gujerat, where the notion prevails that the Registrar wishes to interefere in the Agricultural side of the Associations' operations. There are now 62 such registered bodies, including 15 in Sind.

The number of Supervising Unions is 59 and of Guaranteeing Unions 34 making a total of 93 as against 87 last year. The policy of replacing Guaranteeing by Supervising Unions was adopted two years ago, but it has been decided to maintain for the present efficient Guaranteeing Unions in cases where affiliated societies desire them to be retained. The societies under unions have shown noticeable improvement and the unions are beginning to be recognised as the approved channel by which the Registrar and his honorary staff and the banks may carry out their work of consolidating and improving the primary societies.

The Provincial Co-operative Bank continued to be the most efficient institution in the Co-operative Movement. During the year three new up-country branches of the bank were opened and there are now 16 such branches. They facilitate the operations of primary societies, in providing more adequate and prompt finance, in developing up-country banking and in maintaining direct touch with the affiliated societies and are

the greatest force in the present progress of the movement. The bank serves as a clearing house for cheques of co-operative banks and its average turnover in current accounts is nearly five lakhs per day and the number of cheques presented to the bank for payment daily is over 270 and those cleared for collection over 150. There is no form of co-operative development or endeavour, whether of finance, propaganda or supervision, in which it does not take part.

The number of District Central Banks was 19. The Daskroi Banking Union in Ahmedabad was classified as a Central Bank. The total working capital increased from 1¾ crores to 2¼ crores. The loans to societies amounted to Rs. 147 lakhs as compared with those of last year, *viz.*, Rs. 127 lakhs. The Reserve Fund increased from Rs. 3,37,000 to Rs. 3,51,000. Several banks increased their staff during the year and the expenses of management rose from Rs. 1,33,000 to Rs. 1,63,000. The Larkana, Broach and the Barsi Central Banks are on the whole excellent institutions. The Sind Central Bank did good work as an apex bank of Sind. The Nagar Central Co-operative Bank was converted into an urban bank after the close of the year and the societies have been taken over by the Provincial Co-operative Bank.

There were 487 urban banks as against 476 last year. Out of these 55 were fully fledged urban banks with a working capital of over Rs. 50,000. Overdrafts against deposits at a rate of interest of one per cent. more than that paid on the deposit are now becoming popular.

Consumers' Movement.—There has been no change in the position of the Consumers' Movement. The number of societies has been further reduced from 48 to 42. Only very few are working well. The two Railway Stores at Bulsar and Dadar have done good work.

The number of Housing Societies rose from 44 to 47. There are 22 societies in Bombay and almost all have carried out their building operations. They had between them 723 buildings. In Sind there are 10, of which 8 are in Karachi. In the remaining part of the Presidency there were 15 societies of which 6 are in Ahmedabad. The most noticeable work is done by the Brahma-Kshatriya Society in Ahmedabad and the Parsi Society in Karachi. The houses of the Brahma-Kshatriya Housing Society are substantial and well constructed and the whole colony has the pleasing effect of a garden city.

The year proved another very unfavourable season for weavers. The advent of the Royal Commission on Agriculture resulted

in an examination of subsidiary industries and the opportunity was used for closer attention of the conditions of weavers' societies. The main result is that the Provincial Bank has come forward to assist the societies by procuring and supplying raw material at wholesale rates and by selling finished articles through its branches and shops.

The Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute has made considerable progress in bringing into force the new constitution based on a policy of decentralisation. The Provincial Council has begun to hold its meetings and excellent educative work continues to be done by the training classes. There were 29 conferences held during the year of which 3 were divisional, 3 district, 15 taluka and 8 miscellaneous conferences. The Provincial Conference was held in October 1926, and was attended by the members of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and a speech was made by the Chairman, the Marquess of Linlithgow.

HORTICULTURE

PUBLIC GARDENS

Bombay Municipal Gardens.—Ten public gardens were maintained during the year. The number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens was 2,105,800 against 1,888,000 in the previous year. One hundred and twenty-two band performances were given against 140 in 1925-26. Eighteen performances of Indian music were given and eighteen wireless concerts.

Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona.—These gardens are maintained by the Agri-Horticulture Society of Western India and are of a highly ornamental character.

On the whole, the weather throughout the year was fairly favourable for garden operations and the flower beds were kept planted with flowering annuals, which made an exceedingly good show during the months of August, September, January and February. A large number of bright coloured foliage plants and flowering shrubs was put down during the year.

At the Empress Gardens the amount realised from the sale of fruit was Rs. 2,000, while the income from the sale of wedding and presentation bouquets, decorated baskets, wreaths, crosses and cut-flowers came to Rs. 4,970. The receipts of the gardens amounted to Rs. 21,948 and the expenditure to Rs. 23,156.

The Bund Gardens adjoining the river attract crowds of visitors particularly during monsoon season. The sales at these gardens are only of flowers and ornamental plants and are hardly adequate to pay the wages of the malis. Receipts amounted to Rs. 2,173 and expenditure to Rs. 2,738. The total deficit in the working of both the gardens amounted to Rs. 1,773 which was met from the grant of Rs. 3,000 made by Government during the year.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDUSTRIES

NORTHERN DIVISION.—In Ahmedabad ten factories were added during the year to the existing number 176 and one was struck off the register, leaving 185 at the close of the year. Depression in the textile industry continued as in the previous year.

The Rice and Flour Mills worked well during the year but the Ginning Factroies and presses did not work all through the season, owing to the poor cotton crop. A Match Factory has recently been started in Umreth and a factory for manufacturing cement pipes has been started by Messrs. Tata & Sons at Anand.

In Godhra the number of factories increased during the year, as a result of the installation of electric lights and power.

Dohad continued to be the largest grain market and railway development caused an expansion of trade in the lime and brick industries. The manganese mines at Shivrajpur and Bamankua made steady progress. In the Broach and Surat Districts the ginning factories worked for a shorter period than usual owing to the poor crop. The general decline in business was responsible for the decrease in the river-borne trade at the ports of Broach, Tankari, Kavi and Dehej. Only one of the three textile mills in Surat city was working during the year. The local silk and embroidery business flourished as usual. The mango crop was abundant and there was a good export trade in this fruit to North Gujarat and Kathiawar.

In Thana owing to the general slump in the market, the timber and charcoal trades were depressed. The Raymond Woollen Mills were working and afforded labour to nearly 1,000 labourers. Rice, which is the main product of the district, is largely exported to Bombay, Gujarat and Kathiawar, the value of the exports amounting to about Rs. 95 lakhs. Vegetables and garden produce were also largely exported. They are now grown everywhere near the railway line.

The handloom industry in Bhiwandi continues to flourish. There were 2,810 hand-looms working as against 2,435 in the preceding year and about 6,000 persons were employed. The saris made here find a ready market all over the country.

Central Division.—The outturn of the cotton crop in Ahmednagar, West Khandesh and East Khandesh Districts was comparatively poor and the number of bales ginned showed a considerable reduction.

The mill industry at Sholapur showed fair results but profits showed a tendency to fall owing to the very poor business done with the Karnatic, the most important distributing centre for Sholapur textiles. Trading conditions were the worst experienced since 1922 and there appear to be no signs of improvement.

There is a spinning and weaving mill at Barsi and two others are under construction.

The Belapur Sugar Company continued to make good progress.

As regards the sugarcane industry in the Bhimthadi Taluka of the Poona District, the low prices of jaggery—attributed to increased production from the areas under sugarcane along the Godavari and Pravara Canals—hit growers very hard and many were unable to meet their liabilities to the Co-operative Credit Societies. Another result of low prices was the decision of a number of sugarcane growers to take up cotton cultivation and two ginning factories are under construction at Baramati.

The general depression in the cloth market in Poona City continued owing to tightness in the money market.

Nasik and Satara are mainly agricultural districts. The trade in grain was normal at the three chief centres—Ghoti (Igatpuri Taluka), Bhagur (Nasik Taluka) and Lasalgaon (Niphad Taluka). The onion crop was abnormal throughout the Nasik District and so also the produce of grapes, which resulted in a fall in prices. In the Satara District the favourable monsoon maintained the general prosperity of the district and gave an impetus to trade and local industries. Groundnut, which is the most notable produce of the southern taluka of Satara District, was the most profitable crop of the year. Jaggery and turmeric were also paying commodities and were exported outside the district from Khanapur, Karad, Walwa and Tasgaon Talukas with much profit.

The American Mission factories of Ahmednagar kept fairly busy in all their branches, but owing to the keen competition with small tradesmen they find it difficult to make ends meet. As a result the industrial work of the institution is giving way to vocational training. The carpet factory at Kendal continues to turn out good work but its produce is chiefly exported out of India. A similar factory is at Kune near Khandala in the Poona District and it is also doing pretty well.

The glass factory at Talegaon-Dabhade, the Ravi Varma Fine Arts Litho Printing Press, the Tikekar Textile Factory at Tikekarwadi continued in a flourishing condition.

Southern Division.—The cotton trade in Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar was not very prosperous owing to a smaller crop and the general slump in trade. Though the number of gins and presses in the Dharwar District increased from 102 to 105 few of them had full work and 5 in Dharwar Taluka had to close down for want of work. The Gokak Falls Mills (Belgaum), however, had a good year.

The hand-loom industry in Belgaum and Kanara had a lean year due partly to the general depression in trade and partly to the competition of mill-made cloth. The industry, however, did well in the Dharwar District. Hand-looms in the Ratnagiri District number as many as 580 and the total outturn is estimated at Rs. 2,17,000.

Trade in paddy and rice was brisk in the Mallad tract in the Dharwar District. Machinery for husking and cleaning paddy is gradually being introduced. Five new rice mills were started in Kanara during the year. Kolaba with its 37 rice mills had a good year.

The trade in cardamoms at Haveri (Dharwar) was brisk, and the Bagayat talukas of the Kanara District which grow cardamoms and pepper had a good year. Prices of both these commodities showed a substantial rise. The betelnut trade however suffered a little from a fall in prices. Building stone from Badami and lime stone from Bagalkot were in demand and the dyeing industry at Ilkal had a prosperous year. The market for timber in Kanara showed improvement, although 6 out of the 10 saw-mills were not working.

The fishing industry in the Kolaba District continued to thrive.

The Dhut-papeshwar Pharmacy at Panvel and the copper and brass industries in Hubli, Alibag, Roha and Mangaon continued to do well.

The Tata Company completed the construction of its third power house in the Kolaba District at Patnus.

Kaju-nuts worth Rs. 1,30,000 were roasted at Vengurla for export to Bombay.

The perfumery industry in Hukeri and Pachhapur in the Belgaum District, cane and coir work industries which are run as cottage industries in Kanara and the cart-wheel industries at Panwel (Kolaba) had a fairly prosperous year.

Trunks and safes are made at Mundargi in the Dharwar District but sales were adversely affected by the outbreak of cholera at several large fairs, which are the usual markets for these articles.

Bombay Suburban Division.—There was no appreciable change in the conditions prevailing during the previous year so far as the general depression in trade and industry is concerned.

The following continued to be the principal trades and industries in the district during the year :—

(*a*) Salt manufacture in the villages of Trombay, Mahul, Bhandup, Ghatkoper and Goregaon.

(*b*) Fishing at Bandra, Danda, Versowa and Trombay.

(*c*) The cultivation of palm and brab trees in the South Salsette Taluka. There is a considerable demand for toddy in this taluka.

(*d*) Three textile mills, two at Kurla and one at Ghatkoper and a large plant and factory for the manufacture of steel pipes at Mulund.

(*e*) The bone mill and carbon products factory at Vikhroli, the paint factory at Mulund and tanneries at Kurla and Chembur.

(*f*) Six match factories, one each at Ghatkoper, Kurla, Kandivli, Vile Parle, Dahisar and Ambernath.

(*g*) Dyeing factories at Kurla, Chembur, Vikhroli, Hariali and Khar and cigarette factories in Bandra and Andheri.

(*h*) A litho-printing press in Ghatkoper and brass and aluminium and silver factories at Virle Parle.

(*i*) Glass factories at Kurla and Chembur and the Nawar Tape factory at Ghatkoper.

Stone quarrying is carried out in the villages of Malavni, Gorai, Dharoli, Marol and Akurli. The Malavni quarries are famous for their superior building stone and the Akurli quarries supply good filling in material which is utilised on a large scale for the Back Bay Reclamation.

There are brick kilns of modern type at Kurla and Marol and lime is manufactured in large quantities in the villages of Kurla, Marwa, Gorai and Malavni.

In the Ambernath Taluka near the station there are four factories manufacturing leather-cloth, wollen goods, matches and chemicals.

Sind.—There was no remarkable change in the industrial life of the people. A few rice-husking factories were added to the existing number in the Larkana and Karachi Districts, but these

factories did not have a good year as the production of rice was comparatively small. The wheat-grinding factories worked fairly well. The cotton ginning and pressing factories were not fully employed owing to contraction in the area under cotton and the devastation of the crop caused by locusts.

The sugarcane pressing industry prospered, and the leather tannery at Pano Akil in the Sukkur District worked satisfactorily. The cloth weaving industry is losing ground owing to the preference of the public for mill-made cloth. The silk factory at Rohri known as the Arora factory which was expected to cease work has since improved and is reported to be doing well. The coarse woollen cloth industry maintained its position.

The dyeing, lacquer, and other small industries such as those connected with earthenware, pan-grass, metal work and soap functioned as usual. The number of public motor services is increasing.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

The supply of commercial and industrial intelligence was the principal work of the Department of Industries during the year under review. The future of the Department was under consideration by a Committee during the year and the report of this Committee is now before Government. The Department took part in the organisation of a hand-weaving section at the Agricultural Show held in Poona in October 1926 in order to demonstrate the possibilities of this industry as a spare time occupation for agriculturists and cottage workers. The Department continued to help and advance the hand-weaving industry by means of weaving schools and demonstrations as in previous years and this section of the work of the Department was transferred in July 1927 temporarily to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Eight weaving schools are maintained. Those in the Central Division have done very satisfactory work and have led to the introduction of a large number of looms in the villages of that Division. A weaving school was opened at Ibrahimpur in the Dharwar District in July 1926 and instruction was given in the weaving of plain khaddar, plain bordered dhoties, shirtings, chuddars, etc. During the course of twelve months twenty-four young agriculturists passed out of the school and ten fly-shuttle looms were introduced in the village. Demonstrations of improved preparatory appliances and methods as well as automatic handlooms were given at Sholapur and elsewhere. The results of the sizing demonstration were satisfactory and some of the machines designed by the Department

are being used by the local weavers. Government during the year sanctioned the appointment of a wool weaving demonstrator to demonstrate improved methods of weaving in the wool manufacturing centres. The work of the dyeing demonstrator has led to the adoption of processes recommended by him by professional dyers in several places.

THE FACTORIES ACT

During the year 1926 the number of Factories on the register increased from 1,460 to 1,522 due chiefly to the registration of small concerns employing about 20 persons each. The number of factories that actually worked was 1,398 as compared with 1,358 in the previous year. Of these 675 were perennial and 723 seasonal concerns. Two hundred and twelve of the perennial and 637 of the seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.

The number of operatives employed in all industries was 382,255 as against 370,460 in the preceding year. The increase was ascribed to increased employment in the cotton textile, match and cotton ginning and pressing industries. The number of women employed was 81,104 against 77,624 in 1925, while the number of children was 7,078 against 8,460. There has been a steady increase in the number of women employed in recent years, while at the same time the ratio of women employed to the total number of persons employed has also slightly increased. The percentages of women to total persons employed for the years 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926 are 19·5, 20·4, 20·9 and 21·2. The employment of children has, on the other hand, steadily decreased. Prior to the amendment of the Factories Act in 1922, 4·5 per cent. of the factory population were children but in 1926 less than 2 per cent. were children.

Prosecutions were instituted against 17 factories for the illegal employment of women. They were all successful resulting in 206 convictions. Eighty-two cases instituted against 16 factories for the illegal employment of children were also successful. The result of improved inspection and certification in Ahmedabad together with a more humane attitude on the part of managers has been reflected in the reduction of the number of children employed in the Ahmedabad mills from 5,712 in 1923 to 2,368 in 1926. Irregularities in the small Bombay factories with respect to the employment of children have been considerably reduced as a result of frequent check visits.

For the second year in succession there was a very large increase in the number of accidents recorded. The

following is a statement of the details of accidents for the last five years :—

Year	Number of persons injured				Average per 100 operatives employed
	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total	
1922	42	88	980	1,110	·31
1923	23	108	684	815	·23
1924	82	170	2,354	2,606	·74
1925	50	599	2,466	3,115	·84
1926	49	875	3,060	3,984	1·04

The increase in accident rate was attributed to improved reporting, the tendency of operatives to stay away longer than is necessary and also to the liberality of the two large Railway Companies in Bombay. These give full pay for absenteeism due to accidents. Of the large number of accidents, 1,573, reported from the Railway workshops, 90 per cent. were entirely unconnected with machinery and were due to factors within the control of the workmen themselves. With a view to educating the worker to a sense of greater responsibility to himself and his fellows, four ' Safety Posters ' for use in Railway shops have been prepared by the Factory Department in co-operation with the Railway officials. Steps have been taken to prevent serious and fatal accidents to young children. A general order was issued last year to all ginning factories prohibiting the admission of children between the ages of 2 and 12 to premises where machinery is at work. It is difficult always to prevent children of very tender age from accompanying their mothers without causing hardship to the parents.

Owing to the continued industrial depression, no advance was recorded in the provision of housing in the textile industry, except in the case of a new mofussil mill which has provided 20 three-roomed tenements for the lower subordinate staff and 63 one-roomed tenements for the operatives.

An enquiry into the Welfare Work undertaken in factories was conducted by the Bombay Labour Office and the results have already been published. During the year the E. D. Sassoon group of mills in Bombay engaged a full-time lady doctor, while another mill opened a new dispensary and employed a part-time lady doctor for the benefit of the women workers. An artificial silk winding factory in Bombay provides free living quarters for a part of the staff. Tea is supplied twice a day and dining rooms have also been built.

Four mills in Bombay have opened creches in addition to the three mills that already maintained them. The average creche attendance increased from 64 to 145 and the opium drugging of 72 children has been directly stopped in the creches. Dr. Cama, the woman Inspector, has spent a considerable amount of time on the creche problem and it is fairly certain that other mills will follow the lead already given, when business improves. "Difficulties have been met and overcome," says the report. "One creche was suspected of harbouring an evil eye, a second was troubled with a ghost, while in a third a discharged ayah was responsible for the creche being practically useless. Much tact and forbearance have been necessary to overcome the difficulties, but the three creches are now in a flourishing condition.

"The creches in the Sholapur mills have been noted in previous Reports, while in Ahmedabad a number are already in operation and improvements have been promised. The Agent of the Raipur Mills has recently built a creche and dining rooms at considerable cost."

Wages have remained fairly steady and the year was not marked by any widespread strike. A general strike in the textile industry has been an almost annual feature since 1920, but the year 1926 was in marked contrast with the previous years.

Education of Children.—A match factory in the Bombay Suburban area has opened a school for the children of its employees. In Ahmedabad the Labour Union has continued its efforts in this direction while in Bombay the Social Service League started a technical school some time ago for the instruction of young persons employed in the textile industry. The introduction of compulsory primary education in Wards F and G of the Bombay Municipality was made over a year ago. The cotton mills in Bombay have practically ceased to employ children for some years past. Municipal efforts, therefore, in the general education of children are not handicapped in any way by the cotton textile industry of Bombay.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

According to the report of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay, for the year 1926, only 724 employers submitted the consolidated returns prescribed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. From these returns it appears that 367,744 adults and 7,201 minors were employed in Factories, 2,806 adults were employed in Mines, 4,689 adults were employed in Tramways, 8,258 adults and 40 minors were employed in the Port Trust and 175 adults and 6 minors in other

concerns. The total number of accidents in all these concerns was 4,299 of which 59 were fatal, 184 resulted in permanent disablement and 4,056 in temporary disablement. The compensation paid for each of these classes of accidents amounted to Rs. 42,311, Rs. 43,769 and Rs. 46,011 respectively.

There were 268 applications for award of compensation. Of these, 55 related to fatal accidents, 92 to permanent disablement, 13 to temporary disablement and 101 to distribution of compensation. During the year Rs. 1,38,259 were deposited with the Commissioner of which Rs. 1,17,273 represented the amount of compensation payable for fatal accidents and Rs. 20,986 for non-fatal accidents. There was also a balance of Rs. 20,540 from the previous year. Of the total amount Rs. 1,33,238 were paid out to various claimants, leaving a balance of Rs. 25,562 in the hands of the Commissioner.

Two hundred and fourteen applications were received for registration of agreements. In addition there were also 9 applications pending from the previous year. Of these 223 agreements, 205 were registered, 1 was not registered on account of inadequacy of compensation and 17 were kept pending.

Compensation was awarded in 196 cases of which 194 were in respect of adults and 2 in respect of minors. Out of 194 cases pertaining to adults, 122 related to fatal accidents, 66 were of permanent disablement and 6 of temporary disablement.

BOMBAY BOILER INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The number of boilers on the register at the end of the year 1926-27 was 5,692, an increase of 193. Out of which 2,683 boilers were inspected and certified by the Boiler Inspection Department. Seven accidents to boilers mainly of a minor character in which three persons were injured, two fatally, were investigated during the year. The receipts, excluding those on account of Engineers' Examination fees, amounted to Rs. 1,42,000 as against Rs. 1,44,000 for the preceding year.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

Discussing the figures in the report on Sea-Borne Trade the Collector of Customs remarks :—" It would be idle to pretend that they afford pleasant reading, but at the same time the analysis of them attempted in the body of the Report shows that gleams of sunshine are not wanting, and that there is some evidence that the worst of the storm is passed. The two trade factors of prime importance were external factors, over which India had no control whatsoever. One was the slump in raw cotton prices caused by a huge American crop,

which followed on the record crop of the preceding year and left that record far behind, and the other was the dislocation of trade resulting from the prolonged and disastrous coal strike in the United Kingdom. The repercussions of the first factor on Bombay's staple export trade in raw cotton were extraordinary, and were exaggerated because the Indian crop of 1926 was late and short, and because Indian prices stubbornly remained above American parity. Consequently exports of Indian cotton, which normally represent two-thirds of the total value of Bombay's exports, contracted seriously in quantity, and even more seriously in value. The value actually declined by Rs. 22¼ crores, but nearly Rs. 8 crores of this loss were the result of lower prices. And not only did Bombay ship less cotton : she actually imported some 30,000 tons of American low grade cotton, and was still busily importing it when the fiscal year closed. It is almost inconceivable that America will continue to produce such enormous crops, and even if she does, low prices will encourage world consumption, as in fact they have already. Hence, if the monsoon is not unkind, a recovery in Bombay's raw cotton trade may be anticipated, and indeed heavy exports in the closing month of the year indicate that the recovery has already begun in some measure."

The influence of the coal strike was chiefly reflected in the smaller arrivals of the products of England's heavy industries, notably iron and steel, but general trade with the United Kingdom was also bound to suffer and did suffer. It was therefore at first sight remarkable that the United Kingdom should have regained the first place in the total trade of Bombay, which she had lost in the previous year to Japan. Unfortunately this was not due to any real improvement in the trade with the United Kingdom, but to the heavy decline in the value of the cotton shipped to Japan.

One pleasing feature of the export trade merits special notice, and that is the improvement in the shipments of cotton yarn and piece-goods of Indian manufacture. Despite falling prices, exports of yarn advanced by nearly 10 million lb. and by Rs. 15¾ lakhs, while despatches of piece-goods, owing to a great expansion of coloured goods, increased by thirty million yards and Rs. 1·11 crore.

The apparent decline in the import trade represented lower price levels rather than a contraction of volume. Lower prices, however, should normally stimulate imports, and it is high time that the volume of Bombay's import trade should begin to expand.

The total trade of the Bombay Presidency was 253 crores of rupees, 59¾ crores less than in the previous year. These figures were made up as follows :—

Foreign Trade (private)—

Imports—111 crores 86 lakhs, a decrease of 18 crores 14 lakhs ;

Exports—72 crores 9 lakhs, a decrease of 33 crores 41 lakhs, a total foreign trade of 183 crores 95 lakhs, showing a loss of 51 crores 55 lakhs.

Coasting Trade (private)—

Imports—35 crores 56 lakhs, a decrease of 4 crores 36 lakhs ;

Exports—29 crores 91 lakhs, a decrease of 3 crores 80 lakhs ;

giving a total coasting trade of 65 crores 47 lakhs, a net decrease of 8 crores 16 lakhs.

Adding to this figure Government transactions amounting to 3 crores 48 lakhs the total sea-borne trade amounted to 252 crores 91 lakhs, a decrease of 59 crores 75 lakhs.

The gross revenue collected by the Bombay Custom House declined from Rs. 12 crores 72 lakhs to Rs. 12 crores 16½ lakhs.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PORTS OF BOMBAY AND KARACHI

The following table shows the value to the nearest lakh of the Foreign Import and Export trade of the ports of Bombay and Karachi grouped according to classes shown in Government accounts :—

Imports

		Increase or decrease in 1926-27
BOMBAY	Lakhs	Lakhs
Food, drink and tobacco	951	+ 5
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,090	+ 20
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	5,480	— 229
Living animals	19	— 9
Postal articles not specified	145	+ 5
Total ..	7,685	— 208
KARACHI		
Food, drink and tabacco	706	+ 167
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	139	— 35
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	1,902	+ 104
Postal articles not specified	58	+ 10
Total ..	2,805	+ 246

Exports

	Lakhs	Increase or decrease in 1926-27 Lakhs
BOMBAY		
Indian Produce and Manufacture		
Food, drink and tobacco	304	— 124
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	5,077	—2,929
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	1,033	+ 117
Postal articles	107	— 16
Total ..	6,521	—2,952
KARACHI		
Indian Produce and Manufacture		
Food, drink and tobacco	449	— 124
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,997	— 890
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	25	— 3
Living animals	⅓	— ⅙
Postal articles	5	....
Total ..	2,476⅓	—1,017⅙
BOMBAY		
Foreign Merchandise		
Food, drink and tobacco	44	— 36
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	217	— 125
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	263	— 57
Living animals	3	....
Postal articles	10	— 2
Total ..	537	— 220
KARACHI		
Foreign Merchandise		
Food, drink and tobacco	23	+ 1
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	76	+ 8
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	68	— 28
Articles re-exported by post	....	....
Total ..	167	— 19

Total Export, Bombay—7,059 lakhs, a decrease 3,172 lakhs.
Total Export, Karachi—2,643 lakhs, a decrease of 1,036 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—BOMBAY

The foreign trade of the Presidency proper is virtually confined to its chief port—Bombay. The aggregate value of the foreign trade (private) of Bombay again declined by Rs. 51·53 crores to Rs. 184 crores. If treasure be excluded, Bombay's foreign trade decreased by Rs. 33·81 crores or 19 per cent. to Rs. 147 crores. The foreign trade of Calcutta fell by Rs. 18·09 crores or 8 per cent. to Rs. 207 crores and that of Karachi by Rs. 7·9 crores or 13 per cent. to Rs. 54·49 crores. Imports of merchandise into Bombay declined by 3 per cent. while those into Calcutta and Karachi rose by 1 per cent. and 9 per cent. respectively. Cotton manufactures, metals, machinery and millwork, railway plant and rolling stock and oils were chiefly responsible for the decrease at Bombay, while sugar, provision and cotton piece-goods largely accounted for the increase at Calcutta and sugar and cotton manufactures for that at Karachi. On the other hand, there were noticeable increases in artificial silk, raw cotton, silk manufactures, tobacco and chemicals at Bombay, while there were smaller arrivals of railway plant and rolling stock, cotton twist and yarn, machinery and millwork and oils (mineral) at Calcutta and of metals and kerosene at Karachi.

Exports of Indian produce also declined by Rs. 29·52 crores or 31 per cent. to Rs. 65·22 crores at Bombay, by Rs. 19·12 crores or 13 per cent. to Rs. 126 crores at Calcutta and by Rs. 10·17 crores or 29 per cent. to Rs. 24·76 crores at Karachi. Raw cotton, seeds and grain, pulse and flour accounted for the decrease at Bombay, raw jute and its manufactures, seeds and lac at Calcutta and raw cotton, grain, pulse and flour and seeds at Karachi. On the other hand, there were notable increases under cotton manufactures at Bombay and in tea at Calcutta.

The total value of the private coasting trade excluding treasure also fell by Rs. 7·75 crores to Rs. 57·6 crores, both imports and exports sharing in the decline. Of the principal articles raw cotton, rice and kerosene oil showed noticeable decreases, while spices and wheat improved markedly. Under exports, shipments of cotton piece-goods, cotton twist and yarn and raw cotton contracted considerably but those of grain, pulse and flour showed an appreciable expansion.

FOREIGN TRADE

IMPORTS

Prolonged trade depression, and the dislocation caused by the coal strike in the United Kingdom left their mark on Bombay's import trade in merchandise, the total value of which fell again

by Rs. 2·08 crores to Rs. 76·85 crores. The decrease in value was most marked in cotton manufactures, metals and ores, machinery and millwork, oils and railway plant and rolling stock. Coal, spices, precious stones and pearls unset, sugar, glass and glassware, cotton twist and yarn, rubber, raw wool and matches also recorded noticeable decreases. On the other hand, there were notable expansions in artificial silk, raw cotton, silk manufactures, tobacco, chemicals, drugs and medicines, dyeing and tanning substances, instruments and apparatus, motor cars and motor cycles, provisions, liquors and tea.

The details of trade in the most important articles are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Coal.—Imports of foreign coal fell by a further 115,000 tons to 118,027 tons in quantity and by Rs. 27·34 lakhs to Rs. 26·2 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from Portuguese East Africa, Natal, Japan and the United Kingdom. The contraction in the arrivals of foreign coal was of course mainly the result of the disturbance in the world market caused by the disastrous coal strike in the United Kingdom, whence practically no coal was received except in the first and last months of the year under review. Britain's misfortune was Bengal's opportunity, and the deficiency in foreign shipments was more than made up by receipts from Calcutta. Prices were low in the opening months of the year, but strengthened later.

Dyeing and Tanning Substances.—Imports under this head improved from Rs. 1·26 crore to Rs. 1·42 crore, mainly owing to larger arrivals of coal tar dyes from Germany, her share in the total imports having risen from 50 to 54 per cent. Arrivals of alizarine expanded by 2½ million lb. to 3,386,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 13·94 lakhs to Rs. 20·25 lakhs in value due chiefly to increased supplies from Germany. There was an appreciable increase in shipments from the Netherlands, but though those from the United Kingdom showed a small improvement in quantity, they declined in value. Imports of aniline increased by over 1 million lb. to 7,874,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 3·76 lakhs to Rs. 1·03 crore in value as a result of larger supplies from all the principal countries except the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The improvement in these dyes was probably due partly to restricted imports in the preceding year and partly to Germany's organised efforts to recapture the dye-stuffs market. The greater production of the Indian textile mills must also have had some effect.

Hardware.—This head covers a large variety of miscellaneous articles such as agricultural implements, other implements and

tools, builders' hardware, domestic hardware, enamelled ironware, lamps, safes, stoves, gas mantles, etc. The value of the imports decreased further by Rs. 4·6 lakhs to Rs. 1·56 crore owing to smaller arrivals from the United Kingdom, whose despatches amounted to Rs. 45·77 lakhs as against Rs. 52·46 lakhs in the preceding year. Germany continued to be the largest supplier, her share improving from 35 to 37 per cent. in the total imports, while the share of the United Kingdom receded from 32 to 29 per cent.

Machinery and Millwork.—In view of the continued depression of the cotton mill industry in the Bombay Presidency no improvement could be expected in this class of imports, which had declined in each of the preceding four years, and again in 1926-27 declined in value from Rs. 5·15 crores to Rs. 4·29 crores. Arrivals of textile machinery fell away by Rs. 50 lakhs. Most of the other items under this head also recorded decreases. The share of the United Kingdom, by far the largest supplier, receded from 83·9 to 82·3 per cent., while the contributions of Germany and the United States of America improved from 5·5 and 5·7 to 6·3 and 6·9 per cent., respectively.

Matches.—The improvement noticed in the preceding year was not maintained and imports of matches fell from 2,514,000 to 1,432,000 gross of boxes in quantity, and from Rs. 24·24 lakhs to Rs. 14·35 lakhs in value. Sweden continued to be the chief source of supply and her share in the total imports advanced from 72 to 88 per cent. Nevertheless her shipments fell away considerably, as also did those of Czecho-slovakia, while Japan sent only 7,000 gross of boxes, as against 414,000 gross in the previous year. Imports of undipped splints, veneers and empty match boxes again receded and were valued at Rs. 49,000, as compared with Rs. 2·44 lakhs a year ago. The heavy specific duty on these materials has obviously encouraged their manufacture in India, and imports of wooden logs—mostly from Japan—suitable for the manufacture of splints and boxes rose from 488,000 cubic feet valued at Rs. 8·17 lakhs to 573,000 cubic feet valued at Rs. 12·34 lakhs. Undoubtedly the heavy Customs duty has stimulated the local manufacture of matches, and it is to the competition of local factories that the contraction in imports is largely due.

Metals and Ores.—The year under review was a most disastrous period for the British iron and steel industry, which is of course very dependent on ample supplies of cheap native fuel. The coal strike involved an almost complete suspension of operations, and had the effect of stimulating the output of

continental products, which competed for British markets and for markets overseas. The result was that the total imports of iron and steel into Bombay dropped by 39,000 tons. British shipments alone contracted by 51,000 tons, the loss being chiefly under 'sheets,' and amounted to 88½ thousand tons. Three years previously British despatches were nearly 100,000 tons heavier. Imports from Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany, on the other hand, rose by 12,000 tons, 5,000 tons and 1,600 tons respectively, mainly owing to larger despatches of steel bars. Shipments from France diminished by 8,000 tons and from Sweden by 1,300 tons.

Imports of brass fell further by Rs. 5·62 lakhs to Rs. 1·35 crore. Imports of mixed or yellow metal for sheathing from Germany and Japan increased by Rs. 28·35 lakhs and Rs. 24·81 lakhs respectively, but that was counterbalanced by decreases of Rs. 24·77 lakhs in mixed or yellow metal for sheathing from the United Kingdom and of Rs. 26·8 lakhs under "other sorts" from Japan. Under copper, imports of sheets from Belgium improved by over 18,000 cwt. in quantity and by Rs. 8·65 lakhs in value, but while those from Germany rose by nearly 18,000 cwt. in quantity they fell by Rs. 2·95 lakhs in value. Supplies from the United Kingdom showed a small improvement. Arrivals from France declined by Rs. 2·6 lakhs and shipments from the United States of America fell from Rs. 15·11 lakhs to nil. Imports of German silver declined owing to smaller arrivals from Italy. Imports of circles, the principal item under aluminium, contracted owing to smaller shipments from Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

Motor cars and motor cycles.—The total trade in motor cars, cycles, commercial vehicles and parts and accessories rose in value from Rs. 146 lakhs to over Rs. 158 lakhs. The trade in private motor cars suffered a slight set back, imports having decreased from 3,663 to 3,573 in number and from Rs. 96·24 lakhs to Rs. 95·13 lakhs in value. Arrivals of Canadian cars declined by 259 to 1,206 and those from the United States of America by 120 to 570. The United Kingdom sent 928 as against 975 cars in the preceding year, and it is surprising that the trade suffered so little from the coal strike. The average price of British cars again declined but only slightly. Imports from Italy and France continued to expand, Italy's quota rising from 314 to 522 in number and from Rs. 11·07 lakhs to Rs. 15·13 lakhs in value, and France's quota rising from 168 to 291 in number and from Rs. 5·77 lakhs to Rs. 7·06 lakhs in value. Imports of motor cycles declined from 330

to 283 owing to smaller arrivals from the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the former country sending only 8 all told and the latter 259 as against 275 in 1925-26. Imports of commercial vehicles, on the other hand, rose by 280 to 1,601 in number and by Rs. 7·3 lakhs to Rs. 29·46 lakhs in value, mainly owing to larger despatches from Canada and the United States of America.

Oils.—Imports of mineral oils from foreign countries declined by over 13½ million gallons to 63½ million gallons owing to smaller arrivals of kerosene and fuel oils. Imports of fuel oils by the G. I. P. Railway ceased to be included in the figures for private trade from July 1925 when the Railway was taken over by Government. Thus over 5½ million gallons of fuel oils imported by the G. I. P. Railway from Persia during the first three months of the preceding year were included in the figures for private trade for that year. The inclusion of the above quantity practically accounted for the apparent drop in imports of fuel oils, and the actual deficit in the total imports of mineral oils came to about 8 million gallons, which was chiefly due to smaller arrivals of kerosene in bulk. The decreased imports of kerosene was apparently the result of over heavy receipts in the preceding year.

Imports of foreign kerosene declined by 6½ million gallons owing to smaller arrivals from the United States of America and the cessation of supplies from Georgia, Sumatra and British Borneo. Imports from Burma also fell by 6 million gallons to 30 million gallons. Prices remained steady throughout the year. Shipments of fuel oil from British Borneo improved by 1,164,000 gallons, but Dutch Borneo sent none as against over 2¼ million gallons in the previous year. Imports of foreign lubricating oils decreased by 376,000 gallons to 3,546,000 gallons owing to a fall in arrivals from the United States of America. There were no imports of foreign petrol, the whole supply coming from Burma.

Postal articles not specified.—The five specified articles, *viz.*, (1) gold and silver thread, (2) cinematograph films, (3) jewellery, (4) precious stones and (5) cigarettes are included under he relative heads in the general imports and excluded from this head. The total value of Postal articles not specified improved by Rs. 5·22 lakhs to Rs. 1·45 crore, of which the value of imports from the United Kingdom was Rs. 82·86 lakhs as against Rs. 1·09 crore in the preceding year. The number of parcels assessed at this port fell further from 228,797 to 218 556 while that of letter packets found to contain dutiable articles increased from 43,555 to 44,220. The further decrease in

the number of parcels during the year under report was mainly due to the increase in the permissible weight of parcels from the United Kingdom and France. This change was introduced in the previous year, but did not become widely known till the year under review. The duty collected on parcels improved from Rs. 20·51 lakhs to Rs. 21·44 lakhs, but the amount realised on letter packets decreased from Rs. 10·8 lakhs to Rs. 8·48 lakhs owing to the fall in the value of diamonds imported.

Railway plant and rolling stock.—Imports on private account declined from Rs. 147·56 lakhs to Rs. 88·56 lakhs as a result of smaller arrivals—notably of wagons and parts—from the United Kingdom. Imports of wagons and locomotive engines, principally from the United Kingdom, fell respectively by Rs. 61·13 lakhs to Rs. 2·79 lakhs and by Rs. 9·23 lakhs to Rs. 13·57 lakhs. Arrivals of sleepers and keys of steel and iron increased by Rs. 7·89 lakhs to Rs. 29·24 lakhs, chiefly owing to larger despatches from Germany which were valued at Rs. 11·59 lakhs as against Rs. 13,000 in the previous year. The share of the United Kingdom in the total imports fell from 82 to 53 per cent.—another example of the effects of the coal strike—but Belgium's shipments advanced from Rs. 17·74 to Rs. 18·45 lakhs and Germany's from Rs. 3·31 to Rs. 14·59 lakhs. The stores imported by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was excluded from the private trade figures since July 1925. Imports of these stores were valued at Rs. 75·22 lakhs as against Rs. 89·85 lakhs in the previous year.

Sugar.—Despite some restriction in the world production of sugar, and some improvement in Indian production, imports into British India as a whole in 1926-27 expanded by 120,000 tons, owing to larger arrivals of beet sugar. All the chief ports except Bombay considerably increased their takings, but Bombay's trade, instead of advancing *pari passu*, as might have been expected, actually declined from 187,000 to 183,000 tons. The reason is not far to seek. In 1925-26 the Kathiawar State ports, which since 1917 have enjoyed the privileges of Customs ports, imported, mostly after transhipment at Bombay, nearly 50,000 tons. In the first 11 months of 1926-27 they imported no less than 90,530 tons, of which 69,000 tons went to Jamnagar ports. Bombay receipts of sugar from Java dropped by 50,000 tons to 89,000 tons. This deficit was more than made good by supplies of beet sugar, which advanced by 60,000 tons to 87,000 tons, owing to larger arrivals from Germany, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Belgium. A notable

feature of the beet sugar trade was the entry of Russia into the Bombay market, with shipments amounting to over 13,000 tons valued at Rs. 28·67 lakhs. The preferential treatment accorded to Empire sugar by the United Kingdom accounted for the virtual disappearance of Mauritius sugar from the Bombay trade returns.

Tea.—Imports of foreign tea improved by 180,000 lb. to 5¾ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 8·61 lakhs to Rs. 50·3 lakhs in value. Arrivals of black tea from Java showed a notable improvement, rising by 646,000 lb. to 800,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 4·31 lakhs to Rs. 5·26 lakhs in value, but imports from Ceylon declined by 70,000 lb. to 400,000 lb. Arrivals of green tea, mostly from China, declined by 463,000 lb. to over 4¼ million lb. in quantity but improved in value by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs. Imports from Calcutta showed a remarkable increase, and amounted to 1½ million lb. as against 424,000 lb. in the previous year. Exports of Indian tea fell further by over 1 million lb. to over 1¼ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 13·77 lakhs to Rs. 15·21 lakhs in value. Re-exports of foreign tea also declined by 180,000 lb. to 137,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 1·54 lakh to Rs. 1·21 lakh in value, chiefly owing to smaller reshipments to Persia.

Textiles—

Cotton, raw.—Imports of raw cotton from foreign countries advanced by 27,000 tons to 45,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·33 crore to Rs. 4·97 crores in value as a result of imports of American cotton on a large scale. The bumper American crop contained a large proportion of low grade cotton, and the unfavourable parity of the Indian staple encouraged Indian mills to purchase low grade Americans. This was, of course, by no means unprecedented. Only five years ago, in 1921-22, nearly 12½ thousand tons of American cotton were imported, while in the two successive years 1911-12 and 1912-13 approximately 20 and 23 thousand tons reached Bombay. In the year under review direct imports from the United States of America amounted to 25,000 tons and 5,000 tons, probably all Americans, came from the United Kingdom. Imports from Kenya Colony fell from 16,000 tons to 13,000 tons, while the receipts from Persia were stationary at approximately 1,100 tons. Of the 14,000 tons of African cotton, 1,000 tons were reshipped to Japan, 500 tons to the United Kingdom and over 200 tons to the Continent of Europe, the balance being apparently consumed by the Indian mills which now use fine foreign cotton to a small extent.

Cotton Piece-goods.—Importers of piece-goods for several years past have been left with relatively expensive goods on their hands owing to declining prices of the raw material and consequently of the manufactured article. With cotton prices as unstable as they were in the year under review, forward business was not to be expected; buyers operated with extreme caution and purchases were limited to immediate requirements. When at the beginning of 1927 it was realized that cotton could not go lower and was likely to go higher, good orders were placed, but Lancashire put up rates rather too quickly, with the result that by the beginning of March purchases were no longer being freely made. The rising market at the end of the year undoubtedly helped many merchants and should do much to restore confidence and facilitate future trade.

The general features of the year being as sketched above, a decline was certain to be exhibited in Bombay's import figures. The total value of imported piece-goods (including fents) fell by Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 12·19 crores, towards which coloured goods contributed Rs. 5 crores, whites Rs. 3·52 crores, and greys Rs. 2·71 crores. The largest decrease was under greys, *viz.*, Rs. 1·2 crore. Whites lost Rs. 28 lakhs, and coloured Rs. 45 lakhs despite an increase in yardage. Imports of fents declined by Rs. 6·72 lakhs to Rs. 58·35 lakhs owing to smaller arrivals from the United Kingdom, whose despatches fell in value from Rs. 38·43 to Rs. 29·71 lakhs. The share of the United Kingdom in the total piece-goods trade actually improved from 69 to 70 per cent., while that of Japan fell from 22 to 18 per cent. owing to the drop under grey goods. Most of the fall of Rs. 1·21 crore under greys was borne by Japan, whose share declined from 69·7 to 61 per cent. Her despatches of longcloth and shirtings fell in value from Rs. 1·68 to Rs. 1·22 crore, and of sheetings from Rs. 66·79 to Rs. 22·24 lakhs. Imports of white piece-goods decreased by Rs. 27·87 lakhs to Rs. 3·52 crores, of which the United Kingdom contributed 87·2 as against 89 per cent. in the previous year. The principal varieties are: (1) mulls, (2) longcloth and shirtings, (3) dhotis and saris and (4) nainsooks, the bulk of which came from the United Kingdom. Imports of coloured piece-goods increased by 3¼ million yards in quantity but fell by Rs. 45 lakhs in value. The share of the United Kingdom in this class was 78 per cent. as against 84 per cent. in the preceding year. The chief varieties are: (1) prints and chintz, (2) cambrics, (3) shirtings, (4) saris and scarves, and (5) unspecified descriptions.

Cotton Yarn—

From	Quantity in thousands of lb.		Value in lakhs of rupees	
	1925-26	1926-27	1925-26	1926-27
United Kingdom	5,270	8,428	102	123
Japan	21,165	18,944	279	237
Other countries	219	914	3	9

The total quantity of cotton yarn imported expanded by over 1½ million lb. to 28¼ million lb. owing to larger shipments from the United Kingdom, but its value declined by Rs. 14·54 lakhs to Rs. 3·7 crores as a result of lower prices. Imports from the United Kingdom—mostly of higher counts—increased by over 3 million lb. to nearly 8½ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 21·13 lakhs to Rs. 1·23 crore in value. On the other hand arrivals from Japan declined by 2¼ million lb. to 19 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 41·8 lakhs to Rs. 2·37 crores in value owing to reduced shipments of higher counts, notably 31-40s, imports of which fell from 12 million to 10 million lb. The partial recovery of the United Kingdom at the expense of Japan was apparently the result of lower prices, for English prices fell sufficiently to seem low and attractive. Despatches from China improved from 56,000 lb. to 616,000 lb. Imports of mercerised cotton yarn have advanced further by over 1¼ million lb. to over 4 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 21·37 lakhs to Rs. 85·14 lakhs in value. Japan contributed about 92 per cent. of this trade, the balance being supplied by the United Kingdom. In the following table the production of yarn in the Bombay Presidency is compared with the import from abroad.

Although 94 per cent. of the production of the mills in the Bombay Presidency is of lower counts, the spinning of higher counts shows a marked increase in the year under review :—

(The figures are shown in millions)

—	Yarn imported			Yarn locally produced		
	26s to 30s	31s and upwards	Total yarn	26s to 30s	31s and upwards	Total yarn
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1922-23	4·52	14 36	33·87	39·72	14·13	497
1923-24	·84	11·77	23·55	41·95	15·93	398
1924-25	·63	15·55	27·31	50·48	19·85	474
1925-26	·42	15·51	26·65	51·12	19·00	423
1926-27	·25	15·54	28·28	56·51	30·41	512

Silk.—Imports of raw silk increased by 323,000 lb. to 1,200,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 7·35 lakhs to Rs. 68·66 lakhs in value owing to larger shipments from China. Arrivals from Hongkong and Siam declined. Imports of silk yarn, noils and warps also improved by 445,000 lb. to 969,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 19·78 lakhs to Rs. 53·5 lakhs in value owing to larger supplies from all the supplying countries, excepting the United Kingdom and Japan, the latter's exports showing a large decrease.

Imports of silk piece goods, the most important item in the group, rose further by over $1\frac{3}{4}$ million yards to over $14\frac{3}{4}$ million yards in quantity and by Rs. 19·47 lakhs to Rs. 1·85 crore in value owing to larger arrivals from all the principal supplying countries, notably China and Japan.

The artificial silk trade, whose expansion has during the past few years been described as 'steady,' received a remarkable impetus during 1926-27. Imports of yarn rose from 2 million lb. valued at Rs. 56·19 lakhs to over 5 million lb. valued at Rs. 91·23 lakhs, while piece goods of cotton and artificial silk advanced by over 16 million yards to $25\frac{1}{2}$ million yards in quantity and by Rs. 1·11 crore to Rs. 1·97 crore in value. The yarn was chiefly supplied by Italy, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, and the piece goods by the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy and Germany.

Wool, Raw and Manufactured.—The improvement recorded during 1925-26 was not maintained and imports declined by Rs. 11·77 lakhs to Rs. 25·31 lakhs, owing chiefly to smaller arrivals from Persia, the United Kingdom and Australia. A noticeable feature of the year was that re-exports of Persian wool amounted only to 15,792 lb. as against 1,391,768 lb. in the preceding year. Supplies of yarn and knitting wool also decreased as a result of smaller arrivals from Germany, though imports from the United Kingdom and France showed a small improvement. The most important item under this head is woollen piece goods, imports of which improved by Rs. 2·93 lakhs to Rs. 1·26 crore mainly owing to larger shipments from France, Belgium and Germany. Arrivals from the United Kingdom and Italy, on the other hand, declined by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 72·53 lakhs and by Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 16 lakhs respectively. The principal source of supply was the United Kingdom which shipped 57 per cent. of the total imports. Other manufactures with the exception of carpets and rugs recorded decreases.

FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

EXPORTS

Articles were re-exported from Bombay to the value of Rs. 537 lakhs.

The destinations of these re-exports are shown in the subjoined table :—

Countries	1925-26	1926-27	Increase or decrease
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
United Kingdom	199·27	179·25	— 20·02
Arabia	58·79	57·04	— 1·75
Other European Countries	77·00	55·04	— 21·96
Persia	71·25	51·38	— 19·87
Mesopotamia	51·45	32·37	— 19·08
Japan	128·45	25·79	—102·66
Ceylon	22·55	18·18	— 4·37
United States of America	15·40	15·89	+ ·49
Kenya Colony	23·79	15·16	— 8·63
Aden	21·46	13·42	— 8·04
Straits Settlements (including Labuan)	24·79	9·63	— 15·16
Zanzibar and Pemba	11·06	9·61	— 1·45
Hongkong	9·85	8·95	— ·90
Tanganyika Territory	6·96	5·97	— ·99

The entrepôt trade of Bombay suffered a further setback, and the total value of foreign merchandise re-exported fell by Rs. 2·2 crores to Rs. 5·37 crores. This was mainly due to a heavy fall in reshipments of imported cotton, a result of direct shipments of African cotton to the United Kingdom and Japan and of the competition of the huge American supplies. The quantity re-exported contracted from 8,000 to 2,000 tons and the value from Rs. 1·62 crore to Rs. 36·39 lakhs. The value of cotton manufactures, mostly cotton piece goods, decreased further by Rs. 34·62 lakhs to Rs. 97·34 lakhs owing to smaller demands from Mesopotamia, Aden, Persia and East Africa. Re-exports of sugar also contracted by 3,700 tons to 6,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 14·5 lakhs to Rs. 16 lakhs in value owing to smaller demands from Persia, Mesopotamia and Aden and to the cessation of re-exports to the United Kingdom. On the other hand re-exports of raw hides and skins, consisting almost entirely of Persian fur-bearing skins, improved slightly from 307 tons to 324 tons in quantity and by Rs. 4·82 lakhs to Rs. 1·15 crore in value, due to larger re-exports to the United Kingdom and France.

INDIAN PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES

Exports of Indian produce and manufactures declined for the third time in succession. The chief reason for the heavy fall

of Rs. 29½ crores was of course the slump in both prices and shipments of raw cotton, but all the principal exports recorded decreases, except cotton manufactures, cotton twist and yarn, and hides and skins. Exports of raw hemp fell further by Rs. 29·58 lakhs to Rs. 18·58 lakhs owing to smaller shipments to Germany, the United Kingdom and Belgium. The decrease of Rs. 13·78 lakhs in shipments of tea was due to smaller demands from Mesopotamia, Persia and Kenya Colony. On the other hand shipments of oilcakes expanded by Rs. 35·55 lakhs to Rs. 90·22 lakhs as a result of better takings of groundnut cakes by Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and of linseed cakes by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The improvement of Rs. 4·13 lakhs in myrabolams was due to larger shipments to the United Kingdom.

Grain, Pulse and Flour.—Wheat, wheat flour and rice are the most important items under this head. Exports of wheat fell by 36,000 tons to 6,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 67·44 lakhs to Rs. 11·72 lakhs in value. The United Kingdom's takings were 4,000 tons as against 13,000 tons and those of Mesopotamia and Italy only 300 tons each as against 9,000 tons each in the previous year. France took none as against 1,200 tons. Exports of wheat flour decreased very slightly in quantity but by Rs. 2·58 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments to Persia, Mesopotamia, Aden and Ceylon, though the other Native States in Arabia were better customers. Exports of rice also declined by over 10,000 tons to 16,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 20·6 lakhs to Rs. 42·88 lakhs in value owing chiefly to smaller despatches to Mesopotamia and Persia. Shipments of jowar and bajri improved but those of lentils and other food grains declined.

Hides and Skins (Raw and Tanned).—The improvement in the exports of raw hides recorded last year was temporary and shipments fell from 417 tons to 398 tons in quantity and from Rs. 7·1 lakhs to Rs. 5·73 lakhs in value owing chiefly to smaller demand from Italy. The value of exported tanned hides also declined by Rs. 5·33 lakhs to Rs. 33·58 lakhs, though the quantity remained stationary. Exports of raw skins, on the other hand, improved further by 597 tons to over 4,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 10·6 lakhs to Rs. 66·45 lakhs in value. Shipments of tanned or dressed skins also increased from 600 tons to 800 tons in quantity and from Rs. 33·71 lakhs to Rs. 43·58 lakhs in value.

Metals and Ores.—The principal item under this head is manganese ore. Exports of this ore from the whole of British

India fell further from 564,000 tons to 536,000 tons in the year under review. Shipments from Bengal improved by 32,000 tons but those from Bombay declined by 52,000 tons owing mainly to a smaller demand from the United Kingdom and to the cessation of exports to the United States of America. On the other hand shipments to France rose considerably, amounting to 110,000 tons as against 72,000 tons in the previous year, and those to Belgium and the Netherlands improved by 3,000 tons and 2,000 tons respectively.

Seeds.—Oilseeds constitute the most important item in the export trade of Bombay, after raw cotton. The United Kingdom crushing industry was far from active, and large quantities of vegetable oils were shipped to that country from the continent. Shipments of linseed from the Argentine and other foreign countries to Europe were reported to have been on a large scale. The total shipments from Bombay contracted from 519,000 tons to 253,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 11·81 crores to Rs. 5·11 crores in value. All the principal varities, notably linseed and cotton seed, recorded decreases. Exports of linseed fell by 75,000 tons owing to smaller purchases from the United Kingdom and the continental countries. The heavy decrease in exports of cotton seed was the result of reduced despatches to the United Kingdom which took only 35,000 tons as against 121,000 tons in the previous year. Exports of groundnuts declined by 34,000 tons owing mainly to restricted shipments to France and Spain, though Germany's takings showed a noticeable improvement. Shipments of sesamum decreased by 33,000 tons by reason of the smaller demand from Italy, France and the Netherlands, and the fall in exports of castor seed was attributable to reduced despatches to the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France.

Textiles—

Cotton, Raw.—The outstanding feature of the cotton year was the immense American crop. The 1925 crop had been a record, but the 1926 crop left all previous records far behind. The final ginning figures published by the American Government indicated a figure of 17,688,000 bales of an average weight of over 506 lb., which is the equivalent of nearly 22½ million Indian bales of 400 lb. A heavy fall in cotton prices was therefore to be expected, but the subsequent reaction due to greater consumption of cotton and greater production of cotton goods was somewhat astonishing. The Indian crop for 1926-27 was estimated at 4,973,000 bales as against 6,250,000 bales in the previous year. The crop, besides being short, was late, and

prices ruled above American parity, although they of course fluctuated. Prices were at their lowest in the middle of December 1926, and there can be little doubt but that this induced cultivators and dealers upcountry to hold up cotton, rather than sell at rates which appeared to them unduly low after an era of high prices. As events turned out they were well advised, for prices rose again, and it is interesting to find that the tonnage exported from Bombay in March 1927 was greater than the tonnage exported in any month during the past two years. It was of course inevitable in view of the various factors described above that Bombay's exports of raw cotton should contract. The total shipments declined from 495,000 tons to 385,000 tons in quantity, and from Rs. 62·79 crores to Rs. 40·52 crores in value. Every European country took less than in the preceding year, and exports to Japan fell by 28,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 9·22 crores in value. China's takings also declined from 71,000 tons to 46,000 tons.

Cotton Manufactures.—The mill industry of the Bombay Presidency again had a difficult year, but prospects became distinctly brighter after cotton had reached its lowest in December 1926 and began to rise steadily. Production both of yarn and cloth increased markedly, and at the end of the fiscal year stocks were not abnormally heavy, owing in part to the expansion of exports. Exports of greys fell away, but both white and coloured did much better. Exports of coloured piece-goods actually rose from 83 million to nearly 129½ million yards in quantity and from Rs. 2·54 to Rs. 4·06 crores in value, the Gulf and East African markets being good customers. These markets, however, took much less grey cloth, so that the total gain under piece-goods was 30 million yards and Rs. 1·11 crore.

Coloured piece-goods constituted 86 per cent. and greys 13 per cent. of the export trade, the changes in which are indicated more clearly in the following table :—

Exports of piece-goods

(In lakhs of yards)

	Grey		Coloured	
	Indian	Foreign	Indian	Foreign
1919 20	725	359	869	238
1920-21	473	320	660	131
1921-22	238	469	1,024	109
1922-23	305	512	898	126
1923-24	330	404	920	107
1924-25	437	317	984	119
1925-26	369	152	828	98
1926-27	193	112	1,295	97

It will be seen that re-exports of foreign greys and coloured piece-goods decreased, the former heavily.

Cotton yarn.—The exports of yarn recovered well from the set-back noticed in the previous year, owing chiefly to larger despatches to Hongkong, Syria, Aden and Persia. The largest shipments were to Hongkong, and amounted to 16½ million lb. valued at Rs. 1·02 crore as against 9½ million lb. valued at Rs. 81·37 lakhs in the previous year. Exports to Persia, Mesopctamia and Syria also showed noticeable increases.

Wool, raw.—Exports of raw wool fell further by ¾ million lb. to 17 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 11·55 lakhs to Rs. 1·59 crore in value, mainly owing to smaller shipments to the United Kingdom. Exports to France also declined, but those to the United States of America advanced by 265,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 1·81 lakh in value.

TRADE ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

A noteworthy feature was that despite the damage to her export trade caused by the prolonged coal strike the United Kingdom regained pride of place in the total trade at the expense of Japan. This however was the result of the fall in the value of Japan's takings of cotton rather than of any improvement in the trade with the United Kingdom. The proportionate share of Continental Europe was practically the same as in the previous year, but America improved her share from 3·74 to 5·56 per cent. owing to heavy shipments of raw cotton.

Under imports the United Kingdom's figure again declined by Rs. 3·33 crores to Rs. 29·54 crores owing mainly to smaller arrivals of iron and steel, cotton piece-goods, railway plant and rolling stock and cotton spinning machinery, though there were noticeable increases in artificial silk piece-goods and cigarettes. There was a great expansion under raw cotton, but this cotton was in fact re-shipped American cotton. Imports from other British possessions also fell by Rs. 2·22 crores to Rs. 6·32 crores. Among the foreign countries in Asia imports from Japan, next in importance to the United Kingdom, fell by Rs. 1·44 crore to Rs. 7·45 crores. Arrivals from China expanded by Rs. 45·26 lakhs to Rs. 2·35 crores.

Under exports Japan continued to occupy the first place and her share improved from 37·07 to 39·2 per cent. although shipments of raw cotton to that country fell considerably. The United Kingdom came next with a percentage share of

10·77 as compared with 11·31 in the previous year, the decrease being due to very restricted shipments of seeds, raw cotton, raw wool and manganese ore.

Treasure.—With a smaller balance of trade in merchandise in favour of India, *viz.*, Rs. 79 crores as against Rs. 161 crores in 1925-26, imports of treasure on private account fell further from Rs. 51·01 crores to Rs. 34·98 crores. Imports of both gold and silver declined, the former by Rs. 15·41 crores to Rs. 19·25 crores and the latter by Rs. 46·08 lakhs to Rs. 15·57 crores. Arrivals of gold bullion receded by Rs. 10·59 crores to Rs. 13·05 crores owing to smaller arrivals from Natal and the United Kingdom and to the cessation of despatches from the United States of America, but shipments from Egypt and Western Australia expanded by Rs. 93·17 lakhs and Rs. 80·79 lakhs respectively. Imports of sovereigns also fell by Rs. 4·33 crores to Rs. 5·53 crores by reason of smaller shipments from the United Kingdom and Natal, though receipts from Western Australia were higher by Rs. 64·45 lakhs. The decrease of Rs. 48·36 lakhs under other coined gold was due to smaller arrivals of Turkish gold coin from Mesopotamia and of gold dollars from the United States of America. The decrease of Rs. 46·08 lakhs in the imports of silver is accounted for partly by a net decrease of Rs. 13·56 lakhs under bar and partly by a contraction of Rs. 28·35 lakhs in the arrivals of Government of India rupees. The notable improvements of Rs. 3·56 crores and Rs. 77·88 lakhs under bar from the United Kingdom and China were more than counterbalanced by the heavy fall of Rs. 4·53 crores in shipments from the United States of America. Arrivals from South Australia were Rs. 18·2 lakhs down, but there were new importations of Rs. 32·9 lakhs from France. The decrease of Rs. 28·35 lakhs under Government of India rupees was due chiefly to smaller arrivals from Mesopotamia, Muscat and Bahrein Islands, but despatches from Mauritius amounted to Rs. 17·41 lakhs as against none in the previous year.

Exports of gold and silver decreased, the former by Rs. 18·01 lakhs to Rs. 4·85 lakhs owing mainly to smaller shipments of sovereigns to the Straits Settlements, Zanzibar and Muscat, and the latter by Rs. 1·08 crore to Rs. 1·45 crore as a result of reduced shipments of bar to China and of Straits dollars to the Straits Settlements.

There were no imports or exports of gold on Government account. Imports of silver improved by Rs. 6·03 lakhs to Rs. 10·38 lakhs owing to receipts of Rs. 6·73 lakhs from Persia.

SHIPPING

The total number of vessels engaged in the foreign trade decreased from 1,404 to 1,219 and the total net tonnage from 4,401,329 to 4,038,301. Steamers numbered 1,012 of the burthen of 4,012,176 as against 1,141 of 4,369,709 tons in the previous year. The average tonnage of the steamers which entered the port with cargo was 3,861 as against 3,783 in the preceding year. Sailing vessels consisted entirely of "Native Craft" engaged in trade with ports in the Persian Gulf, Arabia and East Africa.

COASTING TRADE

The coasting trade excluding treasure between the chief port—Bombay—and other ports in India grouped by Provinces is summarised in the following statement :—

(In lakhs of rupees)

	Imports			Exports		
	1925-26	1926-27	Increase or decrease	1925-26	1926-27	Increase or decrease
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
British Ports within the Presidency.	136	153	+ 17	261	276	+ 15
Indian Ports not British within the Presidency.	1,074	789	— 285	470	428	— 42
British Ports in other Presidencies.	2,199	2,011	— 188	2,205	1,869	— 336
Indian Ports not British in other Presidencies.	116	157	+ 41	74	77	+ 3
Grand Total ..	3,525	3,110	— 415	3,010	2,650	— 360

Imports from coast ports into Bombay consist almost entirely of articles of Indian produce which are intended partly for consumption in the Presidency and partly for re-export to foreign countries.

The improvement in the total imports into Bombay noticed last year was not maintained, and in the year under review imports fell away by Rs. 4·15 crores to Rs. 31·11 crores as a result of smaller arrivals of raw cotton and grain, pulse and flour, which form the two most important items. Imports of raw cotton decreased by Rs. 3·31 crores to Rs. 10·03 crores owing to reduced shipments from Kathiawar, Sind, the Southern

Maratha country *via* Goa and Cutch, while those from Madras recorded a noticeable improvement. Imports of grain, pulse and flour fell by Rs. 1·03 crore to Rs. 7·37 crores owing to a heavy decrease in the arrivals of rice from Burma, though there was a noticeable improvement in the arrivals of wheat from Sind. Among other articles imports of kerosene and teak wood from Burma fell by Rs. 33·47 lakhs to Rs. 1·48 crore and by Rs. 22·74 lakhs to Rs. 77·42 lakhs respectively. On the other hand there were noticeable increases in the arrivals of spices from Travancore, British ports within the Presidency and Madras, of jute manufactures, coal and tea from Bengal, and of seeds from Madras.

Exports from Bombay to coast ports fell further by Rs. 3·6 crores to Rs. 26·49 crores mainly owing to smaller shipments of Indian produce. Exports of Indian produce, which formed over 75 per cent. of the total, declined by Rs. 2·77 crores to Rs. 19·93 crores owing chiefly to smaller shipments of cotton piece-goods and cotton twist and yarn to Bengal and Burma and of cotton twist and yarn to Madras, but despatches of cotton piece-goods to Sind show a noticeable increase. Exports of grain, pulse and flour also improved by Rs. 18·62 lakhs to Rs. 3·36 crores owing mainly to larger despatches of jowar and bajri to Kathiawar and of rice to British ports within the Presidency, though shipments of rice to Kathiawar and of pulse to Madras recorded decreases. Re-exports of foreign merchandise fell by Rs. 82·71 lakhs to Rs. 6·56 crores mainly owing to smaller re-shipments of cotton piece-goods and kerosene to Kathiawar and of metals to British ports within the Presidency ; re-shipments of cotton piece-goods to Travancore showed an appreciable improvement.

SUBORDINATE PORTS OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade of the Subordinate ports of the Presidency is quite insignificant. Imports, which consisted chiefly of dates from Mesopotamia, fell from Rs. 5·75 lakhs to Rs. 2·61 lakhs. Exports also fell from Rs. 1,323 to Rs. 420.

COASTING TRADE

The total value of the coasting trade of the Subordinate ports decreased by Rs. 43·26 lakhs to Rs. 7·79 crores, both imports and exports sharing in the decrease. Imports decreased

by Rs. 20·44 lakhs to Rs. 4·45 crores and exports by Rs. 22·82 lakhs to Rs. 3·34 crores. Fifty-five per cent. of the total trade of the subordinate ports is with the Chief Port, Bombay.

THE TRADE OF SIND

An examination of the trade accounts reveals that the year 1926-27, like its predecessor, on the whole, proved disappointing. The aggregate value of the maritime trade of the Province of Sind during the year under review amounted to Rs. 75 crores 43 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 8 crores 61 lakhs or 10 per cent. as compared with the previous year, which itself was one of great depression. A comparison of this figure with the corresponding figure for 1924-25 disclosed a much greater deficiency, *viz.*, Rs. 34 crores 33 lakhs or 31 per cent. The aggregate value of the foreign trade, which represents 77 per cent. of the entire trade, declined by Rs. 7 crores 80 lakhs or 12 per cent. to Rs. 58 crores 3 lakhs. The most discouraging feature in regard to this trade was the excess of imports over exports, the share of the former in the total value having risen to 54 per cent. from 44 per cent. and that of the latter being only 46 per cent. as against 56 per cent. last year.

CHIEF PORT—KARACHI

The outstanding feature of the export trade during the year was a heavy fall in the price of raw cotton in sympathy with the world market, which, together with a reduction in the quantity exported, mainly accounted for the contraction of Rs. 1,049 lakhs or 28 per cent. in the total value of exports amounting to Rs. 2,660 lakhs. Shipments of wheat were only slightly above the low level of the previous year. As in that year, a smaller available surplus for exports and lower world prices were the principal factors which prevented the transaction of a larger volume of business. Considerable decreases also occurred in exports of other food-grains, flour and cotton seed. The slump in the export trade was also to a certain extent due, apart from the reasons given above, to unfavourable conditions prevailing in some of the chief purchasing countries in Europe, including the economic disturbances in Great Britain occasioned by the coal strike. It is of interest to record here that the aggregate value of merchandise exported from the port of Bombay to foreign countries declined by Rs. 3,173 lakhs or 31 per cent. during the year under report.

The position as regards the import trade was, on the other hand, fairly satisfactory, the total value, *viz.*, Rs. 3,143 lakhs, having

increased by Rs. 269 lakhs or 9 per cent. The improvement occurred in the imports of cotton manufactures and sugar, the two leading commodities in the import trade, but the quantities purchased, especially in the last quarter of the year, were much in excess of the requirements of the market, with the result that large stocks of both these articles remained in hand at the close of the year. Other striking features worthy of note were the general downward tendency of prices, steadiness of exchange, higher rates of freight and stringency of the money market for the greater part of the year. The position at Bombay as regards imports was, however, very different, the total value of merchandise from foreign countries having receded by Rs. 201 lakhs or 2·54 per cent.

Notes on the changes in the value and volume of important articles in the trade are given below.

IMPORTS

Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines.—The total value of the various articles improved by Rs. 3·60 lakhs to Rs. 36·84 lakhs, the United Kingdom being as usual the principal supplier, especially of heavy chemicals. The chief importations which showed an increase were Soda Ash and Crystals, Caustic Soda, Alum and proprietary and patent medicines. A contraction, on the other hand, took place in imports of bicarbonate of soda due to the fact that carban dioxide gas manufactured in India has been found to be a better and a more profitable substitute for the article in the manufacture of aerated waters.

Coal.—Imports of coal from foreign countries dwindled from 83,452 tons to 14,303 tons or by 83 per cent. in quantity and from Rs. 20·53 lakhs to Rs. 3·09 lakhs or by 85 per cent. in value, all the exporting countries sharing in the decrease.

The outstanding event of importance in the trade during the year was the unparalleled coal strike in England which lasted for nearly seven months involving an almost complete cessation of production. The effect of the strike was that the arrivals of British coal fell to as low as 322 tons from 15,598 tons in the preceding year. There was also a notable decline in shipments from Portuguese East Africa, whence only 1,962 tons were received as against 47,011 tons last year. This coal was replaced by Indian coal, which came into favour as a result of the operations of the Indian Coal Grading Board. The decrease of 69,149 tons under foreign coal was, however, to a great extent made up by an increase of 59,697 tons from Bengal.

Cotton Twist and Yarn.—There was a further reduction to the extent of 84,494 lbs. in the quantity and Rs. 2·93 lakhs in the value of the imports of cotton twist and yarn, amounting to 744,347 lbs. valued at Rs. 8·51 lakhs. The decrease was mainly due to smaller receipts of coloured yarn from the United Kingdom. Imports of white yarn solely from the United Kingdom, on the other hand, rose from 42,084 lbs. to 102,427 lbs. in quantity and from Rs. 63,090 to Rs. 1·09 lakhs in value.

Cotton Yarn and Manufactures.—The aggregate turnover in cotton goods during the year under report, despite many obstacles, showed an improvement to the extent of 20 per cent. in value as compared with the previous year which was one of great depression. The closing months of that year showed signs of improvement, but subsequent events precluded the possibility of a greater expansion of the trade than was actually recorded. The chief disturbing factors were the continued fall in the prices of both the raw material and manufactured goods and the consequent uncertainties of the market, which prevented merchants from placing their orders freely. Notwithstanding the extreme caution exercised in buying, especially during the first nine months of the year, dealers often found the market against them when the goods arrived, and much difficulty was experienced in disposing of high-priced stocks in a falling market. Moreover, consumption, both local and upcountry, was on a much restricted scale. This was due to a poor demand by the agricultural classes, the prices realized for their products being unremunerative. Conditions at home were also equally unsatisfactory on account of the shortage of fuel due to the coal strike, and the resulting exorbitant prices manufacturers had to pay for it in order to keep their machinery running. In such adverse circumstances the increase in imports recorded during the year must be regarded as satisfactory.

Cutlery, Hardware, Implements and Instruments.—The aggregate value amounted to Rs. 62·12 lakhs. Cutlery decreased in value from Rs. 6·58 lakhs to Rs. 5·88 lakhs, chiefly in receipts from the United Kingdom and Germany. Imports of builders' hardware, on the other hand, advanced from Rs. 5·98 lakhs to Rs. 6·32 lakhs. The value of implements and tools, other than agricultural implements and machine tools imported during the year was Rs. 9·10 lakhs as against Rs. 8·68 lakhs, the bulk of the supplies coming from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Germany. As usual, metal lamps imported were mainly of German and

American manufacture. The consumption of cheap German lamps is steadily increasing at the expense of American varieties.

Machinery.—Imports of machinery which progressed steadily in the previous three years showed a set-back, the total value, *viz.*, Rs. 137·43 lakhs recording a deficit of Rs. 16·95 lakhs or 11 per cent. chiefly due to reduced supplies from the United Kingdom as a result of the prolonged coal strike. The output of pig iron in the United Kingdom was reduced from 6,236,200 tons in 1925 to 2,400,000 tons in 1926.

The falling off of Rs. 6·21 lakhs under prime-movers (other than electrical) was noticeable chiefly in the arrivals of oil and steam engines, other than locomotives from the United Kingdom, the number of the former decreasing from 683 to 580 and that of the latter from 73 to 37. A restricted supply from the United Kingdom was also responsible for the decline under boilers, rice and flour mill machinery and textile machinery, while the reduction under mining machinery occurred in purchases from the United States of America. The value of electrical machinery, on the other hand, improved by Rs. 2·66 lakhs, due to larger imports of electrical metal working machinery from the United Kingdom and of electrical pumps from Germany. Sewing machines again came in larger numbers, British machines numbering 22,999 as against 22,011 and German machines 11,199 against 8,942 last year.

Metals.—Imports under metal and metal manufactures declined by 12,740 tons or 13 per cent. in quantity and by Rs. 45·31 lakhs or 23 per cent. in value.

By far the greater portion of the deficit occurred in receipts from the United Kingdom, whose share in the total quantity supplied was reduced from 29 per cent. to 22 per cent. in 1926-27. For some time past British manufacturers have been undersold by continental competitors, but the year 1926-27 witnessed the crowning disaster. The iron and steel industry is of course entirely dependent on ample and regular supplies of cheap indigenous coal, and the cessation of coal production for nearly seven months of the year involved an almost complete suspension of operations. The extent of the injury sustained by the British industry can easily be gauged from the figures of the output of manufactured iron and steel, which in 1926 was reduced to 3,400,000 tons as compared with 7,397,000 tons in 1925. Owing, therefore, to the uncertainty of delivery and to the higher prices quoted, local dealers refrained from placing orders with manufacturers in the United Kingdom during the strike, and obtained the bulk of their requirements from the

Continent, Belgium, as usual, supplied the most, and though the quantity received decreased slightly by 588 tons as compared with 1925-26, the share of that country in the volume of the trade expanded from 52 per cent. to 60 per cent. Imports from Germany, France and the United States of America also showed a falling off of 473 tons, 1,508 tons and 1,437 tons, respectively. The diminution in receipts from the Continent and the United States of America was due to the increased consumption during the year under report of Tata's iron and steel in the parts of the Punjab served by that Company. An event of importance in the organisation of production on the Continent was the formation of an international pool known as the steel cartel by the producers of iron and steel in Germany, Belgium, France, Luxemburg and the Saar with a view to protect the home markets of the countries concerned and at the same time to raise world export prices to a more profitable level. So far this cartel had very little effect on the local market. Out of the total quantity of iron and steel imported during the year under report, *viz.*, 84,250 tons, 63,995 tons or 76 per.cent. represented articles liable to duty at protective rates.

Oils.—The total value declined by Rs. 20·54 lakhs to Rs. 124 lakhs in 1926-27, chiefly under mineral oils. There was a shrinkage to the extent of 22 per cent. in the total quantity, *viz.*, 18¼ million gallons of kerosene oil imported from both foreign countries and Burma. As compared with 1924-25, however, this quantity showed an excess of 11 per cent. The decrease has followed a heavy increase in the previous year, and in the case of foreign kerosene oil, it would have been much less, but for the fact that a vessel bringing more than three million gallons, which was due in March, arrived in April, the result being that the figures were included in the accounts of the current official year. As usual, the principal supplies came from the United States of America, and the decline occurred under bulk oil, the imports of which fell from 13 million gallons valued at Rs. 91·38 lakhs to 9½ million gallons valued at Rs. 67·70 lakhs. Arrivals of case oil from the United States of America, on the other hand, improved by about ½ million gallons and Rs. 3·92 lakhs to about 1¼ million gallons valued at Rs. 11 lakhs. Sumatra sent some 58,500 gallons of bulk oil valued at Rs. 40,000 against none in the previous year, while the Straits Settlements increased their supplies of case oil from 4,200 to 15,196 gallons. Burma oil decreased in quantity by 16 per cent. to nearly 7½ million gallons and in value by 24 per cent. to Rs. 48·35 lakhs. Imports of fuel oil fell back by ¼ million gallons or 4 per cent.

in quantity and Rs. 2·24 lakhs or 9 per cent. in value as compared with the record figures of last year, the contraction being due to no oil having come from Dutch Borneo as against 1,311,460 gallons in 1925-26. Of the total quantity of fuel oil imported during the year, some 4¾ million gallons came from Persia and 2¼ million gallons from British Borneo. An improvement to the extent of 54 per cent. in quantity and 40 per cent. in value was noticed in receipts of lubricating oils amounting to 1¼ million gallons valued at Rs. 19·54 lakhs.

Piece-goods.—Imports of cotton piece-goods showed a partial recovery under all the three main sub-divisions, *viz.*, grey, white and coloured. While the total yardage expanded by 35 per cent., the value showed an increase of 19 per cent. only, the disparity clearly indicating the trend of prices during the year. As compared with the pre-war year, the figures recorded during the year under review reveal a shortage of 18 per cent. in the volume, but an increase of 43 per cent. in value.

Silk.—Imports of silk yarn and manufactures showed a substantial recovery, the total value, *viz.*, Rs. 7·84 lakhs recording an excess of no less than 60 per cent. over the figure registered in the preceding year. The improvement was due to larger sales of yarn by Italy and of silk goods mixed with other materials by Germany.

Sugar.—After a brief respite during the preceding twelve months, the import business in sugar again showed great activity, stimulated somewhat by the small carryforward of about 6,200 tons at the beginning of the year. Purchases were on a much larger scale, and no less than 230,807 tons of sugar valued at Rs. 524 lakhs were imported during the year, showing an increase of 61,804 tons or 37 per cent. in quantity and Rs. 173 lakhs or 49 per cent. in value as compared with 1925-26 and constituting a record for the port in any one year, the previous best being 192,995 tons in 1924-25. It is interesting to note that, as was the case in 1924-25, Karachi imported more sugar than Bombay, the total importations at the latter port amounting to only 184,863 tons. The tone of the market was, on the whole, healthier than in the previous year. Smaller crops in Java and the continent and the Cuban restriction of output caused world prices to harden, and they showed a rising tendency during the greater part of the year.

Though *Java* was, as usual, the chief supplier, the quantity imported from that country, *viz.*, 139,217 tons was less than in the previous year by 12,543 tons or 8 per cent. The local dealers turned their attention to the continental markets, where

there was a large surplus available for export, and no less than 76,888 tons of beet sugar was purchased as against 13,828 tons in 1925-26, the principal supplies having been received from Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Southern Russia and Poland. It is noteworthy that exports from the United States of America to Karachi further increased from 1,825 tons to 10,019 tons, while Canada sent 3,200 tons for the first time.

Tea.—The decrease of 467,983 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 5·28 lakhs in value noticed last year was followed by a further drop of 317,610 lbs. and Rs. 3·41 lakhs during the year 1926-27, when imports stood at 283,337 lbs. valued at Rs. 2·80 lakhs. As in the previous year, a restricted business in green tea from China caused the decline. This tea is imported here chiefly for re-exportation to Meshed by land, whence it finds its way to Russian Turkistan. The latter country having arranged to obtain its requirements direct from China, there was an almost complete cessation of demand during the first half of the year. It is, however, reported that some revival took place during the latter half of the year, and that fresh business was put through. The decrease in imports was also due to the disturbed state of China during the year under report. Imports of black tea, mostly from Ceylon, did not show any marked fluctuations, the figures recorded, *viz.*, 227,268 lbs. and Rs. 22 lakhs, showing a small increase of 12,709 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 776 in value over imports in 1925-26. The bulk of this tea was *dust tea*, mainly used in Indian tea shops.

Vehicles (excluding Locomotives, etc., for Railways).—Imports of vehicles continued to increase steadily, the total value recorded, *viz.*, Rs. 84·18 lakhs showing a further excess of Rs. 8·02 lakhs over imports in the previous year.

In view of the very heavy imports last year it is not surprising that the number of Motor Cars declined slightly during the year under report from 1,878 to 1,825, the value dropping from Rs. 40·43 lakhs to Rs. 38·76 lakhs.

The number of motor omnibuses, motor vans and motor lorries, which was 325 in 1925-26, reached the unprecedented figure of 872 in 1926-27, and their total value advanced in consequence from Rs. 7·34 lakhs to Rs. 17·01 lakhs. The increase is due to a brisk demand from the Punjab, where these types of vehicles are now replacing bullock carts and other similar conveyances employed in the transport of goods and passengers from the towns to the outlying villages not served by railways. Imports of cycles also created a record. No fewer than 21,946 machines, mainly British, valued at Rs. 10·78 lakhs were received during

the year as against 15,632 valued at Rs. 8·17 lakhs in the preceding year. Markedly lower prices stimulated this trade.

Woollen Goods.—After a heavy increase in the previous year consequent on a considerable reduction in prices, imports of woollen goods slightly contracted in value by 9 per cent. to Rs. 94·23 lakhs. Yarn and knitting wool, mostly intended for the Amritsar market, decreased in quantity from 386,629 lbs. to 362,805 lbs. and from Rs. 14·76 lakhs to Rs. 10·42 lakhs in value, the chief amounts having come from the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland. In the case of piece-goods, while the yardage rose slightly by 2 per cent. to 3,826,832 yards, the value, *viz.*, Rs. 59·87 lakhs fell short of that in the previous year by 11 per cent. The principal purchases were made from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

EXPORTS

Grain, Pulse and Flour.—Exporters of grain, pulse and flour experienced another bad year. The aggregate shipments declined further by 66,917 tons or 21 per cent. and by Rs. 121·52 lakhs or 22 per cent. to 257,795 tons valued at Rs. 434·11 lakhs.

Wheat.—The depression which characterised the wheat trade last year continued throughout the year under report, and the causes which operated to bring it about were much the same. The carryover from the previous season's crop was again small, and as the outturn for the season 1925-26 was also below the average and the internal demand heavy, there was a considerable reduction in the amount available for export. Moreover large purchases of Sind and Punjab wheat were made during the year by the Bombay flour mills as a result of poor crops in the districts which normally supply them. The various reasons mentioned above helped to keep the price of Indian wheat above the level of world prices which continued to be easy on account of another favourable crop in America and Australia. Indian wheat could not, therefore, compete successfully in foreign markets, and exports stood practically at the low level of last year, the shipments amounting to only 168,769 tons valued at Rs. 257·65 lakhs, the quantity showing the trifling increase of 5,675 tons but the value a decrease of 11·98 lakhs as compared with 1925-26. These figures compare very unfavourably with those for 1924-25, when shipments totalled 1,046,255 tons valued at Rs. 1,611·75 lakhs. As regards the conditions in the local market the prices prevailing during the year were lower than those in the previous year. The shipments of wheat from Karachi

represented 96 per cent. of the total quantity (175,949 tons) exported from India.

Exports of barley which in 1924-25 reached the record figure of 388,062 tons valued at no less than Rs. 449·37 lakhs declined heavily in 1925-26 to 34,473 tons valued at Rs. 46·13 lakhs, and during the year under report dwindled to the negligible figure of 838 tons valued at Rs. 99,766. A mediocre crop and a large internal demand raised local prices to a level which made export business impossible. There was also a marked decline in shipments of gram, the quantity having receded by 15,117 tons to 8,904 tons and the value by Rs. 18·45 lakhs to Rs. 14·07 lakhs.

Raw Cotton.—Raw cotton was again easily the leading commodity in the export trade of the port, its share in the aggregate value of exports having amounted to 55 per cent. as against 63 per cent. last year. The salient features of the year were a bumper crop of about 18½ million bales in America, which beat all previous records, and the consequent heavy drop in world prices. The market showed a continuous downward tendency for the greater part of the year, with the result that both sellers and buyers were dominated by a feeling of nervousness, and hesitated to enter into forward contracts; further, the uncertain price levels caused a disposition on the part of buyers to limit commitments, and the demand was also somewhat restricted owing to the relatively high price of Indian cotton. This disparity encouraged Indian mills to purchase large quantities of American cotton, of which about 25,000 tons was imported into Bombay as against only a hundred tons last year. Exports at Karachi during the year under report declined by 32,684 tons or 18 per cent. to 146,995 tons in quantity and by Rs. 851 lakhs or 39 per cent. to Rs. 1,359 lakhs in value: the difference between the two percentages shows how severe was the depreciation in local prices. As a result, however, of certain favourable conditions, especially the shipping facilities afforded, the port continued to attract large quantities for export, including some 20,000 bales from the United Provinces and 10,000 bales from Rajputana against only 1,000 and 4,000, respectively, in the previous year, so that in spite of the reduced total of exports as compared with 1925-26, the figures for the year were the second highest on record. It may be noted that shipments through Bombay showed the heavier proportionate decrease of 23 per cent. Japan was again the largest purchaser of cotton exported from Karachi. The quantity shipped to that country, however, fell by 2,832 tons to 54,805 tons. Italy

which came next, reduced her requirements from 34,255 to 27,301 tons, while China, despite internal troubles, increased her purchases from 17,775 to 18,604 tons. Other continental countries also took less, but the fall was more marked in shipments to Germany, which purchased 14,823 tons as against 22,807 tons last year. Shipments to the United Kingdom also showed a considerable reduction of 55 per cent., the quantity being only 7,876 tons as against 17,552 tons in 1925-26, but this substantial reduction is easily accounted for by the great coal strike and the general adverse conditions affecting the trade.

Raw Wool.—After a dull season in the previous year, the wool market showed some activity, exports rising by 12 per cent. to 26½ million lbs. in quantity and by 13 per cent. to Rs. 229·91 lakhs in value. A continuous fall in prices in the earlier part of the year, specially due to the slackness of demand by the Indian mills, accompanied by the tightness of the money market, compelled stockists to part with their holdings at rates advantageous to shippers. A brisk demand from the United Kingdom towards the middle of the year also gave an impetus to the trade, and substantial profits were realised on consignments shipped to Liverpool for September and October auctions, particularly the latter. This induced local dealers to export largely and abnormally heavy shipments were made in December. The market in the United Kingdom had, however, declined by that time, and the prices realised for these shipments were not satisfactory. The United Kingdom took the most, *viz.*, 24½ million lbs. as against 20½ million lbs. last year. The principal feature of the trade in that country was the stability of prices of all qualities of wool in contrast to the violent fluctuations in the preceding year. The United States of America, the only other important customer, after buying Indian wool freely in the previous two years, fell back, shipments thereto having declined from over 2¾ million lbs. valued at Rs. 20·95 lakhs in 1925-26 to 1¾ million lbs. worth Rs. 14·52 lakhs in 1926-27. The deficiency was, however, more than made up by a large increase in purchases of foreign wool.

Seeds.—The export trade in seeds suffered a set-back for the third year in succession, the total quantity having fallen by 39 per cent. and the value by 27 per cent. as compared with shipments in the previous year. In contrast to the trade in the preceding two years, however, rapeseed, the chief item, showed a slight improvement, the figures recorded, *viz.*, 90,176 tons and Rs. 206·71 lakhs, having exceeded those of last year by

7,132 tons or 9 per cent. in quantity, and by Rs. 11·03 lakhs or 6 per cent. in value, while the decrease was most noticeable under cotton seed and sesamum seed.

Hides and Skins, Raw.—The hides market showed some activity during the year under report. As a result of famine conditions in certain districts in Sind and a shortage of fodder in parts of Rajputana, larger supplies were available, and the quantity exported rose by 34 per cent. to 2,929 tons and the value by 17 per cent. to Rs. 28·79 lakhs. The improvement during the year occurred chiefly in exports to Germany and Spain, there being a brisk demand for cow hides in those countries. Shipments to Italy, on the other hand, contracted from 621 to 397 tons, solely in exports of buffalo calf skins. The export trade in raw skins did not show any marked fluctuations, the total quantity having declined by 120 tons only.

Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.—The total value of the articles included under this rather unimportant class in the export trade contracted by Rs. 2·50 lakhs to Rs. 25·50 lakhs. Shipments of hides and skins, tanned or dressed, the principal article in the group, amounted to 211 tons valued at Rs. 9·26 lakhs as against 231 tons valued at Rs. 9·63 lakhs, the deficiency being noticeable in exports of tanned sheep skins to the United Kingdom. The value of tanned goat skins, exported mainly to the United Kingdom, was maintained at Rs. 3·97 lakhs.

Foreign Merchandise, re-exported.—The total value of re-exports of foreign merchandise amounted to Rs. 167·69 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 18·74 lakhs or 10 per cent. Raw wool, woollen manufactures and sugar, the three most important articles entering into the entrepot trade of this port, contributed 44 per cent., 26 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively to this value. The re-export trade in raw wool, which suffered a considerable set-back in the previous year, showed a recovery, the total shipments, *viz.*, 9 millions lbs. valued at Rs. 73·53 lakhs having exceeded those in the previous year by 18 per cent. in quantity and 16 per cent. in value.

COASTING TRADE

The aggregate value of the coasting trade of the chief port amounted to Rs. 1,725·56 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 80·78 lakhs or 4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Both imports and exports suffered a set-back, the value of the former having fallen by Rs. 39·17 lakhs to Rs. 1,123·91 lakhs and that of the latter by Rs. 41·61 lakhs to Rs. 601·65 lakhs.

SUBORDINATE PORTS

Keti Bandar and Sirganda.—The total value of the entire trade of these ports, which is confined to trade with coast ports, increased slightly from Rs. 14·26 lakhs to Rs. 14·44 lakhs, to which Keti Bandar contributed 66 per cent. and Sirganda 34 per cent. Rice is the chief trade of both these ports.

SHIPPING

Foreign Trade.—The total number of vessels engaged in the foreign trade again decreased from 1,129 to 1,013 and their tonnage from 1,850,089 to 1,846,501 tons. The contraction was most noticeable under sailing vessels, which accounted for a shortage of 91 vessels out of a total decrease of 116. The number of steam vessels declined by 25 only. The average tonnage per steamer increased further from 2,838 tons to 2,961 tons.

In all 511 steamers flying the British flag entered the port, a decrease of 5 vessels only, though the slump in the export trade was greater than in the previous year.

Coasting Trade.—Though the total number of steam and sailing vessels employed in the coasting trade declined by 454 to 6,193, their tonnage increased by 109,807 to 2,869,011.

Freight.—Freight rates to the United Kingdom ruled easy during the first two months of the year in sympathy with the Bombay market, but the coal strike at home in May had a disorganising effect, and the subsequent months witnessed a considerable rise. The rates for wheat and rapeseed opened at 14*s.* 6*d.* and 13*s.* 6*d.*, respectively, in April, and eased off to 11*s.* and 10*s.* in the first week of May. This favourable position was, however, not long maintained. A steady rise soon followed in the subsequent months, and a level of 24*s.* for wheat and 23*s.* for rapeseed was reached in the third week of October, the quotations being more than double those in May. The scarcity of tonnage on this side raised the rates still further at the end of November, when 37*s.* for wheat and 35*s.* for rapeseed was demanded. Barring small bookings, no export business was, however, secured at such abnormal rates. A turn for the better was taken in January, and this continued up to the end of the year, the closing rates on the 30th March being 19*s.* 6*d.* for wheat and 18*s.* 6d. for rapeseed.

ADEN

The total value of the private sea-borne and land trade of Aden decreased from Rs. 16 crores 50 lakhs to Rs. 15 crores 76 lakhs. The sea-borne trade alone showed a decrease of

Rs. 74 lakhs. The value of the import trade, exclusive of treasure, increased by Rs. 23¼ lakhs to Rs. 7 crores 41½ lakhs. The value of articles of food, drink and tobacco decreased by 14 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore 92½ lakhs, grain and pulse, wet dates, ghee and spices being chiefly responsible for the decrease. Increases were observed in coffee, sugar and cigarettes.

The value of raw-materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured increased by Rs. 52½ lakhs to Rs. 2 crores 28 lakhs. Coal increased in quantity by 68,440 tons and in value by Rs. 19¾ lakhs due mainly to imports of South African Coal, but Welsh coal decreased. Increases in value were also noticed in raw skins, by Rs. 1¾ lakhs and in oils, by Rs. 33¼ lakhs. The value of articles wholly or mainly manufactured decreased by nearly Rs. 18½ lakhs to Rs. 3 crores 5 lakhs. Apparel, chemicals, drugs and medicines—chiefly in patent medicines and other sorts, dyes and tanning substances—chiefly in aniline, machinery and mill work, vehicles, white piece-goods, jute and manufactures showed a decrease. The value of cotton goods amounted to Rs. 2 crores 39 lakhs against Rs. 2 crores 53 lakhs in the previous year. The chief increases were in hardware, paints and colours, glassware, metals and dyed piece-goods.

The value of the export sea-borne trade, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 5 crores 62 lakhs against Rs. 5 crores 87½ lakhs the year before, showing a decrease of Rs. 25⅓ lakhs, grain and pulse, rice, jowari, wheat flour, fruits and vegetables, spices and sugar refined being chiefly responsible for the decrease in articles of food and drink; while the chief increases were in coffee, salt, tobacco and cigarettes. Raw materials and produce decreased in value by Rs. 13½ lakhs to Rs. 1 crore 5 lakhs, chiefly in gums and resins, and articles wholly or mainly manufactured by nearly Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores 41½ lakhs, chiefly in cotton manufactures, grey and silk piece-goods.

The total imports of treasure decreased by Rs. 40½ lakhs and exports by Rs. 31½ lakhs.

The total sea-borne trade, excluding treasure, amounted to Rs. 13 crores 3¾ lakhs of which India's share was nearly Rs. 2 crores.

The number of steam and sailing vessels that entered the port increased from 1,315 to 1,496 and the tonnage from 4,356,326 to 5,291,617.

SHIPPING OFFICES

In addition to the shipping, paying off and discharging of ships' crews, the Shipping Office has a variety of miscellaneous

duties to perform. These include the settlement of disputes between ship-masters and seamen, the administration of the estates of deceased seamen of the Mercantile Marine, the disposal of distressed British and Indian seamen and the inspection of rations and water provided for the crews. The settlement of claims of seamen or their dependants in case of accident or death and the receipt and disposal of dead seamen's effects and the registration of seamen also come within the scope of the Shipping Master.

During the year under report the Bombay Shipping Office signed on 34,455 seamen of many nationalities and discharged 35,010. About 10,330 Goanese were signed and 10,360 were discharged, almost all in the Stewards Department. 21,000 other Indians were signed and 21,300 discharged. Deck hands were both Hindus and Muhammadans, but those in the engine room were exclusively Muhammadans. The total expenditure was Rs. 67,200.

The Karachi Shipping Office shipped 370 seamen and discharged 597. The decrease (426) in the number of seamen engaged and discharged was due to a reduction in the number of entries and clearance of foreign trade ships at the port. The expenditure was Rs. 1,440.

The Aden Shipping Office engaged and discharged 2,262 seamen and 59 distressed seamen were repatriated. The Shipping fees received and credited to Government amounted to Rs. 6,235 against Rs. 6,900 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE Public Works Department has long been an important feature of the British administration in India. Its history dates from 1854 when it first came to be organised on a definite basis in succession to the old military boards, constituted mainly for the carrying out of military works.

For administrative purposes the work of the Department is divided into two sections: (i) Roads and Buildings and (ii) Irrigation.

During the year 1926-27 the Roads and Buildings Branch executed works, the total expenditure on which was Rs. 2 crores The expenditure on buildings connected with Central Services amounted to nearly Rs. 12¾ lakhs.

Under Provincial Services expenditure on Residences and offices for Heads of Provinces and works for Commissioners and District Officers amounted nearly to Rs. 9 lakhs.

Under Administration of Justice, the works cost Rs. 16¼ lakhs and under Jails and Convict Settlements nearly Rs. 6 lakhs, the Judicial buildings at Nadiad, New Sub-Judge's Court at Hyderabad, Sind, and the conversion of sub-jail at Shikarpur into a special prison were completed during the year.

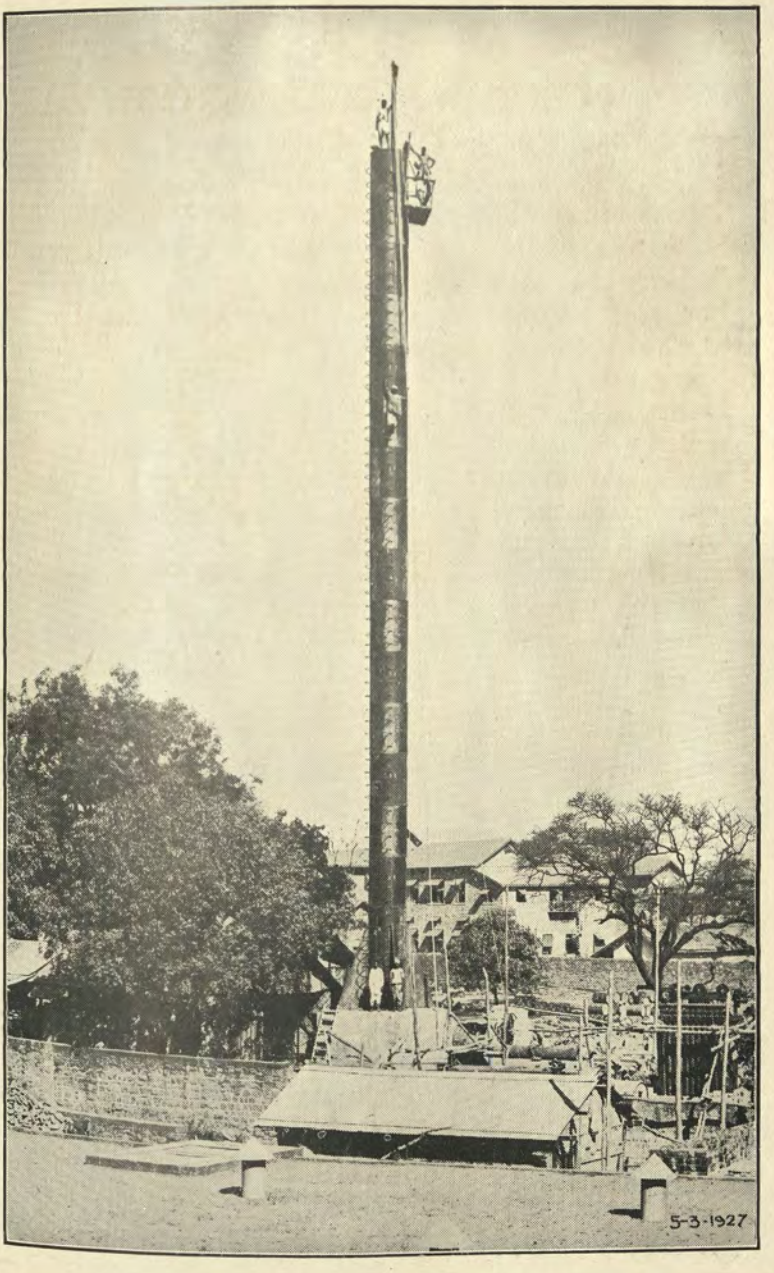
The expenditure under the head "Police" was over Rs. 14¼ lakhs, chiefly on Police Accommodation Schemes in Bombay and Police Lines at Satara, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Belgaum, Dharwar and Karachi.

The works under "Medical" cost over Rs. 10 lakhs, including the extension of the Civil Hospital and B. J. Medical School, Ahmedabad, X-ray room and quarters for the Assistant Surgeon at St. George's Hospital, Bombay, the Prince of Wales Ward and quarters for nurses at the G. T. Hospital, Bombay, and the Veterinary Dispensary at Jambusar in Broach District.

Over Rs. 4 lakhs were spent under "Education" on new works and repairs to colleges, secondary and primary schools.

Certain repairs and additions and alterations to the old Jail buildings at Umarkhadi, Bombay, were carried out so as to make it suitable for occupation by the Children's Aid Society.

Coast erosion and protection.—In pursuance of the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 15th August 1925, Government appointed a Committee



POONA WATER WORKS :
STEEL CHIMNEY IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION [*To face page 142*

to enquire into the causes of the encroachments made by the Sea on the Western Coast of the Bombay Presidency and to suggest measures for the prevention thereof. The Committee had held 10 meetings up to the 31st March 1927.

Central Workshops, Dapuri.—Owing to retrenchment in all Departments and lack of big works, the Workshops were run at a loss during the year. The gross turn-over was about Rs. 2 lakhs as against about Rs. 3 lakhs during the previous year.

ARCHITECTURAL

Designs and sketch plans were made for the proposed new Council Hall, Bombay, Police Accommodation Scheme at Naigaum, Bombay, Police offices at Karachi and for Judicial Courts at Jalgaon and Sholapur.

In regard to public or institutional buildings, designs were prepared for several works in connection with the J. J. Hospital Reconstruction Scheme, Bombay, a New Post Office at Dadar, the Ismail College at Andheri, and extension to the north wing of the G. T. Hospital, Bombay.

ELECTRICAL

An expenditure of Rs. 4¼ lakhs was incurred on Electrical work and maintenance during the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nearly Rs. 19 lakhs were spent on new roads and additions and alterations to existing ones, while repairs to roads and bridges cost over Rs. 35 lakhs.

Road Board.—Government appointed in the year 1926, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister, Local Self Government, a Road Board consisting of official and non-official members, the latter including representatives of District Local Boards and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Western India Automobile Association. The functions of the Board are to advise Government on (*a*) the division of the roads into classes in accordance with their importance and utility, (*b*) the laying down of standards to which each class of road should conform, (*c*) the allocation of funds that may from time to time be available for road construction and improvement, and (*d*) the policy to be followed in regard to the provincialization of roads, and generally on the construction of new roads and their utilisation by various forms of transport.

The preliminary meeting of the Road Board was held on 7th August 1926. As decided at that meeting, Divisional

Committees have been formed under the Chairmanship of the Commissioners concerned. They have been asked to classify the roads as trunk and feeder roads and for that purpose to collect traffic statistics. They have also been asked to draw up specifications for the requirements of various classes of roads.

ARBORICULTURE

Nurseries were maintained at various places and the planting, watering and protection of road side trees continued to receive careful attention. About 24,196 trees were planted during the year along Provincial and Local Fund roads in charge of the Public Works Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nearly Rs. 12 lakhs were spent on various water-supply and drainage schemes. The scheme for the independent water-supply for Ahmedabad Cantonment was completed. Improvements to water-supply at Poona Cantonment, Pandharpur, Uran, Matheran, Vitta, Sholapur, Nargund and Surat and certain drainage works at Poona, Kapadwanj, Sholapur, Dhulia were carried out during the year.

Boring operations for water-supply were conducted at Aden, Bavla, Drigh road, Mulvad, Nasik, Nandurbar, Rupal, Sarkhej, Thori-Mubarak, Thori-Thamba, Utetia, Umerkot and Vadgaum.

IRRIGATION

GENERAL

The irrigation works in charge of the Public Works Department are divided into two distinct spheres, *viz.*, (1) Sind and (2) Deccan and Gujarat.

In Sind the rainfall is usually negligible and the canals depend upon the river Indus, fed from its own upper reaches and by its tributaries, for their supplies. The great majority of the canals are inundation canals, *i.e.*, they flow only when the river is high, the water level in the canal depending on the natural river level, and for the remainder of the year are dry. On an average the period of flow of these canals may be taken as from the 15th June to 30th September, *i.e.*, 3½ months working season. For the rest of the year cultivation is restricted to areas served by wells, or to lands which have been flooded during the inundation season.

When the Lloyd Barrage Scheme, which is under construction, comes into operation, perennial irrigation will displace the present precarious inundation supply throughout that large

IMPROVEMENTS TO SURAT WATER SUPPLY—MANUFACTURE OF CONCRETE PIPES

[*To face page 144*

area of Sind commanded by this Scheme. It will then be possible throughout the year to raise the river level at the heads of the new canals to the necessary height thereby ensuring to the fields a constant and fixed supply of water in lieu of the present uncertain one. The cultivator thus able always to depend on getting his water regularly will be able to arrange his cultivation in the most economical way and to grow crops best suited to his land and for his market.

In the Deccan and Gujarat rainfall is available for agricultural operations but is often precarious. Tanks and canals provide irrigation to valuable crops like sugarcane and they are a source of supply to other crops also when the rainfall is deficient or irregular. The large irrigation systems in the Deccan are all of the same type. Each depends upon a storage lake near the head of one of the river valleys, where sufficient water is collected during the monsoon to supply, throughout the rainless period of the year, the country on either side of the river-valley below.

Of the new large irrigation projects, *viz.*, the Pravara River Works and the Nira Right Bank Canal, the former is completed and the latter is approaching completion. Pending the development of the Nira Right Bank Canal the remodelling of the Nira Left Bank Canal has been put in hand so as to take full advantage of the extra storage in the new Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar and the work is making good progress. These canals irrigate lands in tracts which originally were most liable to famine by failure of the rainfall.

In Gujarat surveys are being carried out for reservoirs on the Panam river, a tributary of the Mahi, and on the Watrak river near Magodi and Mehmadabad and for a weir across the Meshwa, a tributary of the Sabarmati.

The expenditure on all irrigation works in the Presidency during the year 1926-27 amounted to Rs. 302½ lakhs of which Rs. 254½ lakhs were spent in Sind and the balance in the Deccan and Gujarat.

The amount spent on works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept was Rs. 278 lakhs. The total receipts on these works amounted to Rs. 109 lakhs as against Rs. 100½ lakhs in the previous year. The area irrigated was 3,633,000 acres, a decrease of about 49,000 acres as compared with the average of the previous three years. The decrease was mainly in Sind where the area irrigated fell from 3,400,000 to 3,360,000 acres. In the Deccan and Gujarat the area irrigated showed a decrease of about 9,000 acres as compared with the average, *viz.*, 282,000 acres.

For the remaining works for which capital accounts are not kept the area under irrigation, *viz.*, 233,000 acres showed a decrease of about 10,000 acres as compared with the average of the last three years. These works did not yield any net revenue, as the expenditure during 1926-27, *viz.*, Rs. 31 lakhs exceeded the receipts by nearly Rs. 15 lakhs.

SIND

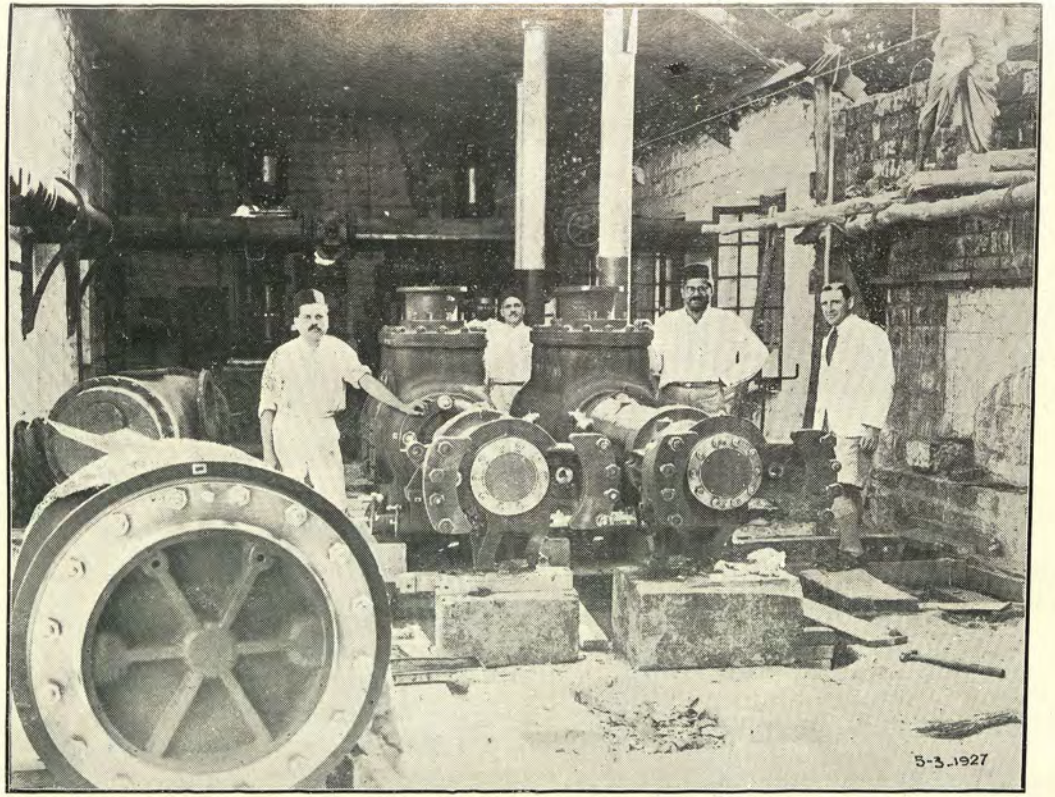
The inundation of 1926 can be classed as a good one. The fair irrigating level of 13 feet on the Bukkur gauge was first reached on 3rd August and was maintained for 44 days. On the Kotri gauge the fair irrigating level of 17 feet was reached on 21st July and was maintained for a period of 68 days. The rainfall during the season was above the average and was generally well distributed and beneficial to the crops.

INDUS RIGHT BANK CIRCLE

The Desert Canal worked satisfactorily. Owing to deficiency in the Unharwah Canal during June and July, rotations were resorted to but the cultivation done was satisfactory. The cultivation on the Begari Canal was on the whole very good. On the Mahiwah no great necessity for kharif rotations was felt but rabi rotations were allowed from the middle of September until the canal ceased to flow. The Seharwah worked well throughout the season as did the Garkino Canal. The water-supply in the Ghar Canal was inadequate until the middle of July and consequently there were complaints of deficiency. To help the zamindars general permission was given for erecting Persian Wheels in the upper portion of the canal with beneficial results. The Fordwah worked most satisfactorily throughout the abkalani. The supply in the Sukkur Canal was deficient in the beginning when the river was low but it improved to some extent with the rise in the river. The Western Nara was opened on 1st June. It reached its designed full supply level on the 6th August and remained at and above that level for 43 days. The Pritchard and Kalri Canals worked satisfactorily. On the Pinyari Canal the general condition of crops was excellent.

INDUS LEFT BANK CIRCLE

The canals in this Circle fall into two groups, *viz.*, (1) the Eastern Nara system and (2) the canals taking off direct from the Indus. The former includes the Jamrao, the Mithrao, Khipro, Thar and Hiral Canals, all of which, except the Khipro canal which flows during the inundation only, are semi-perennial and are fed by the Nara Supply Channel. The total area



POONA WATER WORKS—ENGINE ROOM SHOWING MAIN PUMPS [*To face page 146*

cultivated on the Jamrao Canal was about 217,000 acres, of which over 115,000 acres were under cotton. The Mithrao Canal worked with rotations almost throughout the season. On the Thar and Hiral Canals rotations were also resorted to.

The second group includes the Nasrat, Dad, Fuleli, Hassanali and a large number of small canals which are classed as inundation canals. The Nasrat was opened on 23rd May and ceased to flow on 7th November. The cultivation on this canal was about 112,000 acres as against 87,000 acres, the average for the past triennium. The area irrigated on the Dad Canal was below the average. The Naulakhi Canal worked fairly well. The maximum discharge of the Fuleli was more than that of the last year and more also than the average of previous years. The area irrigated was about 420,000 acres. The Hassanali Canal worked very well. The area irrigated by canals in the Hyderabad Division was about 256,000 acres.

The Indus River Commission is entrusted with the entire management and control of the river Indus in the province of Sind. It carries out the necessary surveys and constructs and maintains the river bunds which protect the country from high floods in the river. The total length of the river surveyed during the year was 575 miles. The Indus River Commission also arranges for the accurate gauging of the river and for velocity, silt and discharge observations. The results of these observations are published from time to time.

LLOYD BARRAGE AND CANALS CONSTRUCTION

The scheme consists of the construction of a barrage or weir across the Indus three miles below the gorge at Sukkur with three canals on the right and four on the left bank taking off therefrom each with a separate head-regulator. It is divided into 5 Circles of superintendence with a Chief Engineer at the head. One Superintending Engineer is in charge of the construction of the barrage with the river training works and the head works of the main canals while the remaining Superintending Engineers are in charge of canal construction.

As regards the construction of the barrage, the year was devoted to the completion of the service works and preliminary arrangements and the erection of all plant required for work in the Indus. The first season's programme of permanent works in the river was also carried out with complete success. The four canal circles were occupied in surveys, preparation of working designs of canals, acquisition of land for canals, construction of buildings and the excavation of main and branch canals both by mechanical and manual labour.

Lloyd Barrage Circle.—The actual construction of the regulators for the canal heads which form the flanks of the Barrage proper was commenced in the autumn of 1926. By means of cofferdams of interlocked steel sheet piling probably the largest ever constructed in India, the founding of five of the seven canal regulators above the barrage was completed. The three quarries equipped with up-to-date mechanical appliances worked at high pressure to provide the stone required for the works in progress. To enable rapid and economical transport of materials, stores, plant, etc., a net-work of railway lines has been laid in the works area and quarries on both banks. On each side of the river a well equipped workshop with electric power has been erected and fitted for repairs and maintenance of the plant used in construction. The fleet consisting of 2 suction dredgers for excavation of foundations in the river, 3 paddle tugs for towing barges and other craft, pontoons for pile drivers, motor launches, heave-up boats, etc., was fully employed. Exhaustive experiments have been carried out in the production of 'fat' and hydraulic lime from local lime-stone with satisfactory results. One tower on each bank of the river to command all regulators was built and special 8-inch theodolites were fixed thereon.

In the North-Western Circle the largest sized dragline excavators have excavated the North-Western Perennial Canal with a bed width of 164 feet and depth of 10 feet in a length of 16 miles and the Central Rice Canal for half bed width of 120 feet in a length of 10 miles. The total quantity excavated in the circle was over 17 crores cubic feet.

In the Western Circle owing to the peculiar nature of the country through which the Dadu Canal and the Central Rice Canal pass the excavation was done partly by mechanical excavators and partly by manual labour. The total quantity excavated in this circle was about 19 crores cubic feet.

In the Rohri Canal Circle a total length of 17 miles of the Rohri Canal, 13 miles of the Khairpur Feeder East and about 18 miles of branch canals, were excavated. The total quantity of earthwork done in the circle amounted to 23½ crores cubic feet.

In the Eastern Nara Circle the excavation of the Khipro Canal in a length of 21 miles and of the Samarjo and Nabisar branches in a total length of 26 miles was completed, the total quantity of earthwork done amounting to over 10 crores cubic feet.

SUKKUR BARRAGE—EXCAVATION OF THE ROHRI CANAL

[*To face page 148*

General Items.—Telephones were installed on both banks of the river. A rectangulation survey of the area in the Barrage canals zone is being carried out. This work has as its ultimate object the standardization of the size and shape of each survey number, each number being 16 acres in area. Over 11,000 acres of land were acquired at a cost of Rs. 13 lakhs.

The whole progress of the work on the Lloyd Barrage and Canals scheme is being programmed with a view to permit of irrigation being commenced by the new canals in the abkalani season of 1931.

The total expenditure incurred up to the end of March 1927 is approximately Rupees five crores.

DECCAN AND GUJARAT

NORTHERN CIRCLE

The Hathmati and Khari Cut is the only important Canal system in this Circle, the remaining work being small tanks dependent upon local rains. The area irrigated by this system was about 9,300 acres. Owing to good rainfall the replenishment received in the Wangroli, Tranza-Nagrama, Savli and Saiat tanks was sufficient to meet the demand for irrigation during the year. The total area irrigated on these tanks was 5,600 acres. The Muvalia tank filled and the cultivators were persuaded to irrigate more land on this tank than usual and they did so, with the co-operation of the Irrigation Department. The result was that the total area irrigated was about 1,200 acres as against 800 acres, the average of the last three years.

CENTRAL CIRCLE

The most important irrigation works in this Circle are **the Ekruk tank, the Jamda and the Krishna Canals.** Besides providing water for irrigation, the Ekruk tank supplies the demands of the town of Sholapur, the Mills and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway there. It has been ascertained that the tank is not able under unfavourable conditions of replenishment, which arise at times, to meet the agricultural and non-agricultural demands made on it and a subsidiary scheme to supplement the supply in the tank is under the consideration of Government. The sixteen first class irrigation works in this Circle irrigated an area of over 30,000 acres.

DECCAN IRRIGATION CIRCLE

The largest and the most important irrigation works in the Presidency proper are in this Circle.

The Nira Left Bank Canal is one of the pioneer irrigation works in the Deccan and protects a tract with an extremely precarious rainfall in the Poona District. This system consists of a storage reservoir at Bhatgar, a pick-up weir at Vir, a canal 100 miles long and a tank at the tail of the canal which is used for the purpose of storing a portion of the surplus monsoon flow in the river. The scheme is financially the most remunerative of the larger protective irrigation works now in operation in the Deccan, being the only one which shows a profit after paying interest charges. The guarantee of water for the more valuable crops is the attraction offered by the block system of irrigation in vogue on this canal. About 78,000 acres were irrigated during the year.

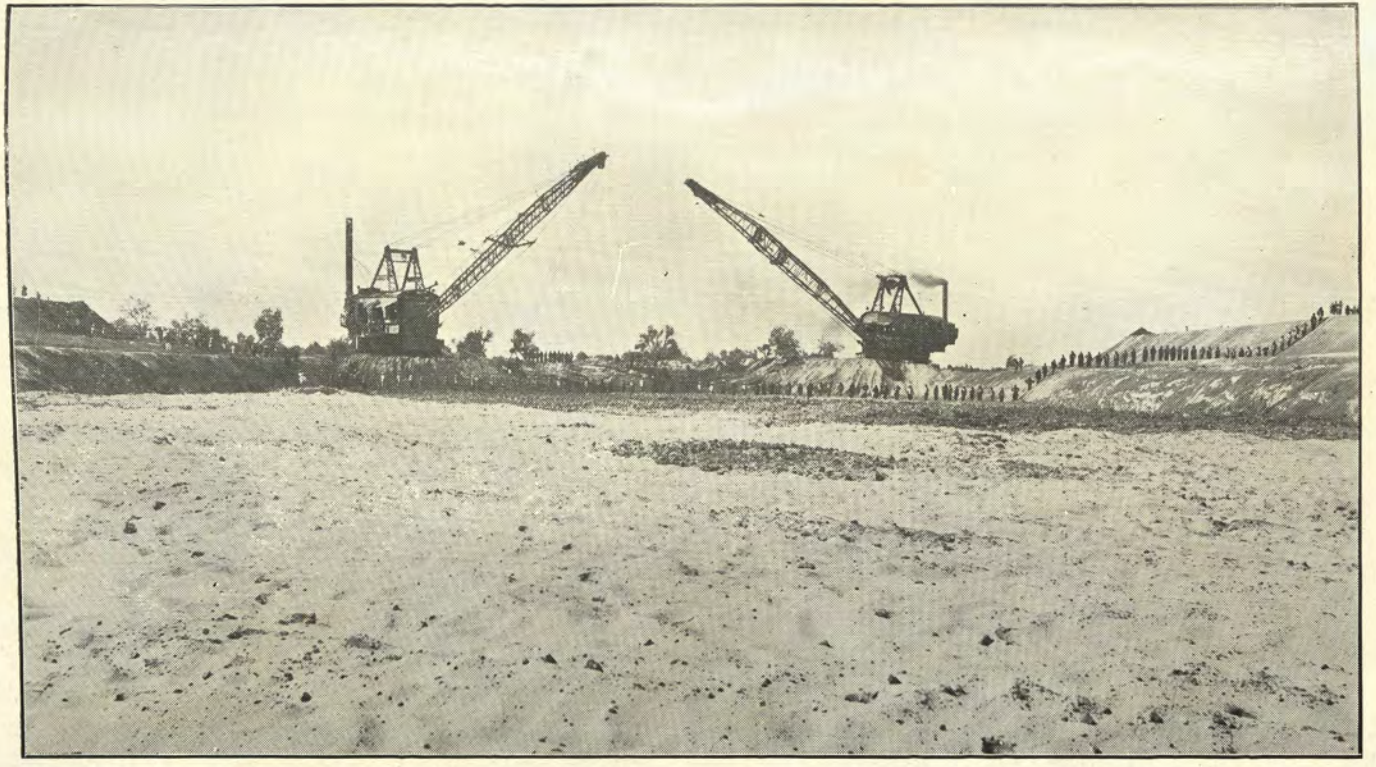
The Mutha Canals.—This irrigation scheme consists of—

(1) a storage reservoir at Khadakwasla known as Lake Fife and

(2) the Mutha Right and Left Bank Canals.

The dam spans the valley of the Mutha river and the lake is the fortunate possessor of an excellent catchment, having been known to fill in as little as 18 hours at the beginning of the monsoon. The water of the lake is used for supplying drinking water to Poona and for irrigation. The system irrigated 19,000 acres. The supply in the lake is insufficient to meet the growing demand for water for Poona and perennial crops on the canals. Preliminary proposals for remodelling the system have been approved and a project is under investigation for increasing the storage capacity either by raising the existing dam or by constructing subsidiary storage dams.

The Godavari Canals.—This was the first of the important irrigation works undertaken in the Central Deccan for the protection of areas liable to famine. It was completed in 1915-1916 at a cost of a little over one crore of rupees. The system consists of (1) a storage reservoir, called Lake Beale on the Darna river, (2) a pick-up weir at Nandur Madhmeshwar on the Godavari and (3) the Godavari Right and Left Bank Canals. The Right Bank Canal, 69 miles long, serves the northern tracts of the Ahmednagar District and the Left Bank Canal, 48 miles long, irrigates lands in the south of the Nasik District and the north of the Ahmednagar District. The area of all crops irrigated by this system was just over 26,000 acres of which 6,300 were under sugarcane. The necessity for additional storage has been felt and preliminary investigations are being made.



SUKKUR BARRAGE—DRAGLINE EXCAVATORS AT WORK ON THE RICE CANAL [*To face page 150*

Mhasvad tank.—This tank is formed by an earthen dam across the Man river. It is situated on the eastern border of the Satara District but irrigates lands in the Sholapur District. It irrigated 5,300 acres.

The Kadva and the Girna River Works are two small irrigation systems in this Circle. They irrigated about 12,000 acres.

The Pravara River Works.—The system comprises (1) a storage reservoir called Lake Arthur Hill on the Pravara river at Bhandardara of about 12,000 million cubic feet capacity, (2) a pick-up weir at Ojhar and (3) two canals named the Pravara Right and Left Bank Canals, 33 and 48 miles long, respectively. The Wilson Dam at Bhandardara, one of the highest dams in the world, stores the water for the Pravara canals which are now in full operation. The culturable area under command is in the Ahmednagar District, a region of scanty rainfall very liable to famine. The area irrigated by these canals during the year was about 32,000 acres, of which about 10,300 acres were under sugarcane.

Proposals are under consideration for an adequate balancing tank at Manglapur for providing an additional storage of 3,000 million cubic feet.

The Nira Right Bank Canal.—This irrigation system will be by far the largest so far constructed in the Bombay Deccan. The project comprises the large masonry dam, known as the Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar which impounds water to the extent of 24,000 million cubic feet and the new Right Bank Canal, 107 miles long, which traverses the Satara Collectorate and the Phaltan State to irrigate the western portion of the Sholapur District—a tract notoriously liable to famine. The dam is nearly completed; practically all deep cutting, high banks and masonry works up to the end of the canal have also been completed. The progress on distributaries and branches is satisfactory. The distributary system is being constructed on up-to-date principles and the latest types of measuring devices are being provided at the distributary heads and also at frequent intervals on the channels. Irrigation has already commenced in the upper reaches and the area irrigated during the year was about 27,000 acres.

Nira Valley Development Project.—The project consists of (1) the remodelling of the Nira Left Bank Canal and (2) the construction of a new dam at Vir to supplement the storage at Bhatgar. The work of remodelling the existing Left Bank Canal was put in hand in the year 1925 and is making satisfactory progress.

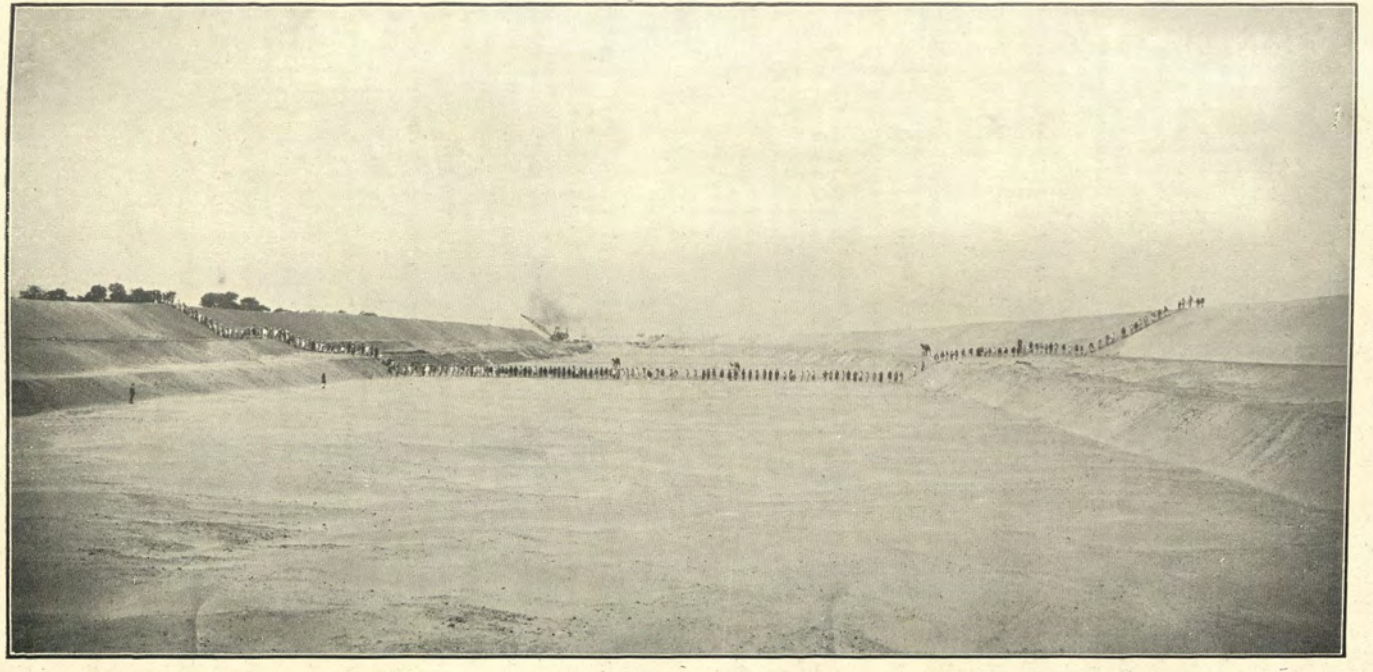
Second Class Irrigation Works.—These include numerous bandharas or weirs built across small streams having a good supply of water to raise the level sufficiently to enable it to command the lands to be irrigated. In all, there are about 300 of these small works in the Nasik Collectorate alone, and a large number also exists in West Khandesh.

Investigation Work.—Experiments and research work in connection with the problems met with in the scientific development of irrigation in the Deccan were continued. The principal subjects handled are : (1) drainage of water-logged lands and measures to prevent water-logging, (2) reclamation of salt lands, (3) soil physics and soil classification, (4) observation of sub-soil water levels, (5) hydraulic experiments, (6) use of sewage effluent as manure, (7) improvements in distribution and measurement of water, (8) block revision and formation and (9) rain and river gauge work. As a result of experiments it has now been proved that water-logged lands can be drained and reclaimed at a comparatively small cost by means of a system of permanent drains, combined in the first few years, with the restoration of the physical texture of the soil by means of surface-washing or "leaching" of the salts in the case of salt-affected lands. Several drainage schemes have been sanctioned by Government and are in progress while others are under preparation. The problem of reclaiming salt lands and the damaged area under various canals has now been practically solved.

General.—The year was a favourable one. The monsoon opened well and there was timely rainfall throughout the months of June to September 1926. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Irwin inspected the Lloyd dam at Bhatgar, the Pravara Left Bank canal tract and the Effluent Farm and Hydraulic testing station at Hadapsar and evinced great interest in all they saw ; they graciously expressed their appreciation not only of the works carried out by Government for the benefit of the country but also of the enterprise shown by the Deccan cultivators in availing themselves of water thus supplied and in rapidly developing the irrigated tracts. The members of the Royal Commission on Agriculture also visited the Lloyd dam. The Wilson dam at Bhandardara was declared open by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay on the 10th December 1926.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE

Among the irrigation works in this Circle the **Gokak Canal** is the most important. This system consists of a weir across the Ghataprabha river at Dhupdal in the Belgaum District,



SUKKUR BARRAGE—CENTRAL RICE CANAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

[*To face page 152*

16 miles of main and branch canals and 36 miles of distributaries. By raising the crest of the Dhupdal weir by 4 feet it is now possible to conserve a far larger quantity of water in the cold weather than before and thereby to bring more area under rabi cultivation. The crops got sufficient water for the whole season. The Cotton Mills at Gokak and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway were supplied with water as usual. The area irrigated by the canal during the year was 12,200 acres.

The Dharma canal stands next in importance in this Circle. Crops consisting mainly of rice under direct irrigation and also those under the tanks fed by the canal were in good condition.

RAILWAYS

The railway lines in the Bombay Presidency are not administered by the Government of Bombay but are under the direct control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). The Railway Board has also the control of Railway lines in the Indian States within the Bombay Presidency.

The total length of Railways open for traffic in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) was 5,595·02 miles.

Work on the Pandharpur-Miraj extension of the Barsi Light Railway made good progress and land was acquired for part of the Pandharpur-Lonand extension.

The Hotgi-Sholapur Railway was almost ready for being opened for traffic. The line from Grant Road to Borivli on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway was quadrupled and the new lines opened for traffic in October 1926.

Sixteen surveys were completed or in progress during the year.

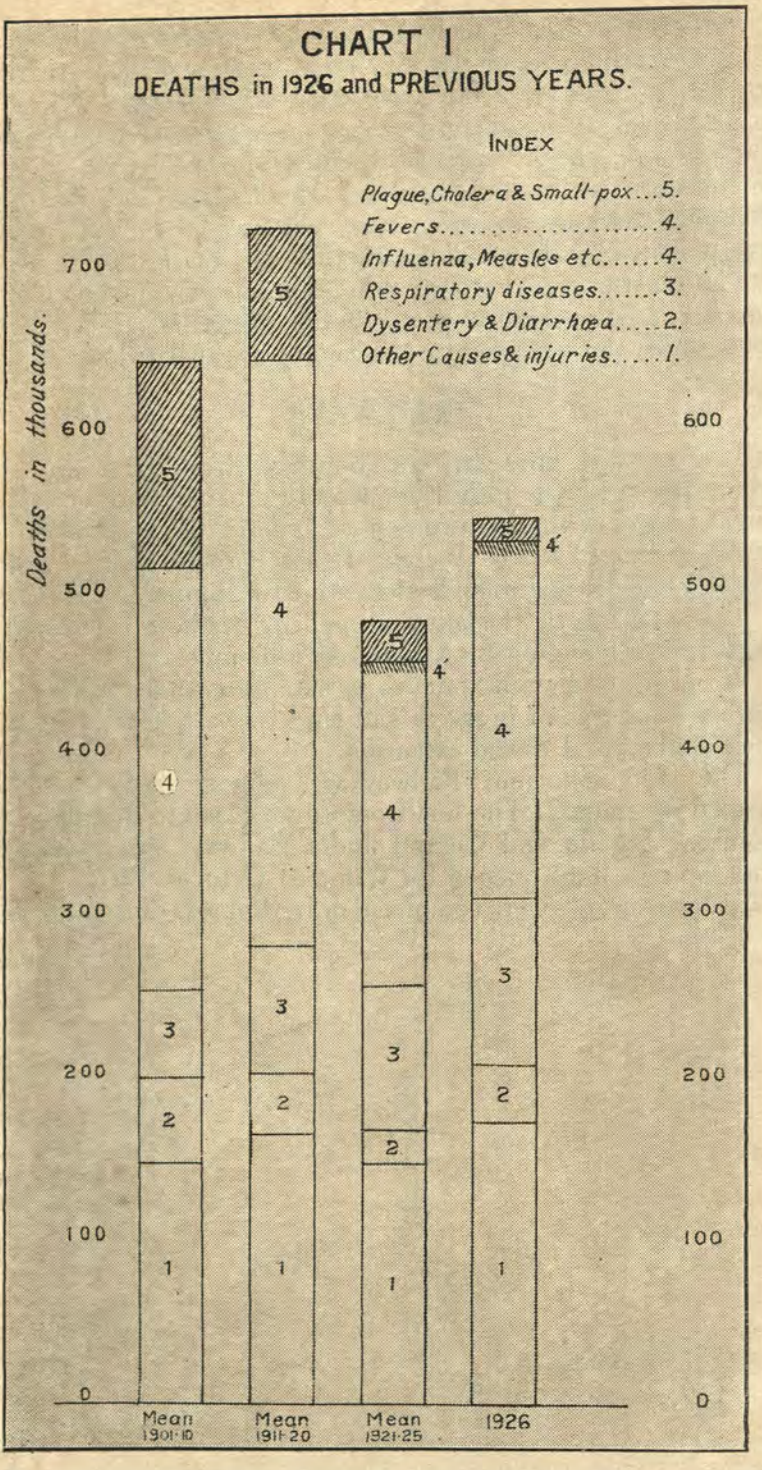


CHART I
DEATHS in 1926 and PREVIOUS YEARS.
INDEX
Plague, Cholera & Small-pox...5.
Fevers.....4.
Influenza, Measles etc.....4.
Respiratory diseases.....3.
Dysentery & Diarrhœa.....2.
Other Causes & injuries.....1.
Deaths in thousands.
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Mean 1901-10
Mean 1911-20
Mean 1921-25
1926

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

FOLLOWING on 1925, with its low death-rate the year under report showed in comparison a high mortality. Granted that the year 1925 was an exceptionally healthy one and so does not lend itself for a fair comparison, 1926 recorded a high death-rate even as compared to 1924 and the previous five years' mean. The health history of the Presidency from 1918, the year of the influenza pandemic, judged by the total mortality figures, is one of steady progress up to 1922, the year of a record low death-rate (23·61) and thereafter of gradual return to the low standard that normally prevailed. Thus the death-rate figure for 1923 25·89, for 1924 27·63, for 1925 23·66, and for the year under report 28·55 indicate the return to the 1911-15 mean of 27·56.

The increase appears in nearly all the separate major headings of causes of death. Thus comparing the figures with those of the preceding year, " Intestinal Diseases " showed an increase of 65 per cent., " Respiratory Diseases " 24 per cent., " Fevers " 21 per cent. and " Other Causes " 18 per cent., while the chief epidemic diseases—Cholera, Small-pox, Plague and Influenza combined showed a reduction of 30 per cent.

Births.—The year 1926 showed the highest number of births recorded since 1916. The total number of births registered was 710,135 showing an increase of 45,751 over the figure for 1925 and also of 66,397 on the decennial mean figure—643,738. The birth-rate for the Presidency as a whole was 37·05 against 34·66 during the previous year. For the Presidency proper excluding Bombay City and Sind the rate was 41·35 against 39·12 and for the Province of Sind 24·30 against 20·58 in 1925. For rural areas the birth-rate was 39·04 and for urban areas 28·88. Of the 27 districts, the highest birth-rate was recorded in Ahmednagar (49·20) and the lowest (17·94) in Hyderabad. Thirteen returned a birth-rate of 40 or more per mille of population, *viz.*, Broach (48·95), West Khandesh (48·29), East Khandesh (46·67), Sholapur (45·44), Nasik (44·62), Bijapur (43·39), Belgaum (43·05), Satara (42·14),

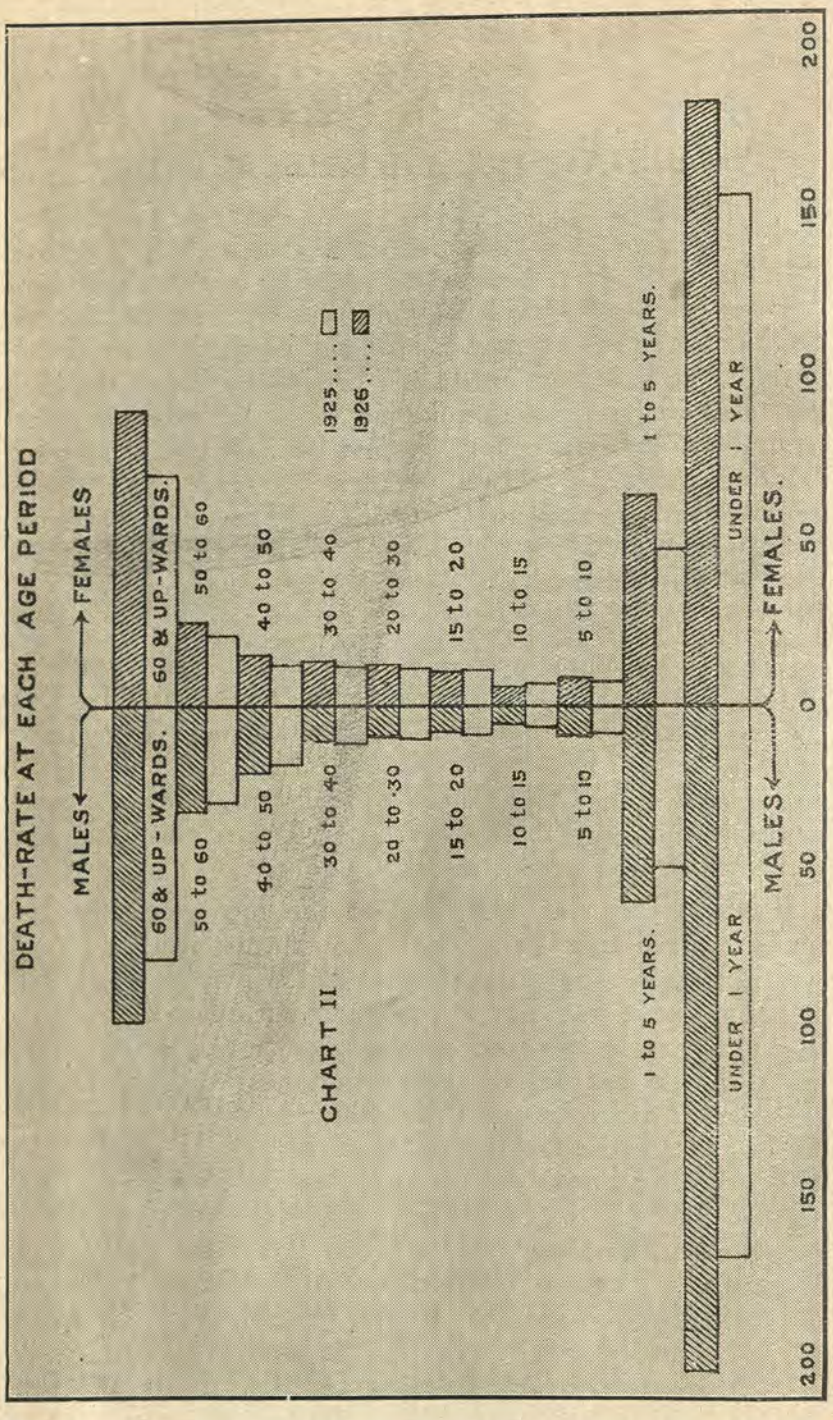

DEATH-RATE AT EACH AGE PERIOD
MALES
FEMALES
60 & UP-WARDS.
50 to 60
40 to 50
30 to 40
20 to 30
15 to 20
10 to 15
5 to 10
1 to 5 YEARS.
UNDER 1 YEAR
1925....
1926....
200
150
100
50
0
50
100
150
200

CHART II

Kolaba (41·28), Surat (41·09), Ahmedabad (40·42), Panch Mahals (40·23) and Ratnagiri (40·17). Bombay Suburban District recorded a rate of under 20 per mille. This low birth-rate in the Bombay Suburban District is accounted for by the fact that large section of the population is made up of workers in Bombay City who are residents of different parts of the Presidency and whose wives are, almost invariably, sent to their native places for confinement. Of the 189 talukas, pethas and mahals, 164 or as many as 87 per cent. returned birth-rates of over 35 per mille of the population. The highest birth-rate was again in Pathardi in the Ahmednagar District (80·59) whereas in South Salsette the figure was only 19·21 and in Poona City taluka 15·99. The births recorded in Bombay City were 20,704, 760 more than in the previous year, and equivalent to a birth-rate of 18·02 or an increase of 0·66. Of the registered births, 368,823 were males and 341,312 females equal to ratios of 19·24 and 17·81 per mille of population.

Deaths.—The year showed an increase in the mortality over the previous year and also over the quinquennial mean. This rise was due to some extent to fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa and respiratory diseases and all other causes. The greater number of deaths amongst infants largely contributed to swell the total mortality figure. The total number of deaths registered was 547,264 as compared with 453,563 in 1925 and 486,062 the quinquennial mean. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency worked out to 28·55, the death-rate for rural and urban areas for the Presidency as a whole being 27·98 and 31·22 respectively. The highest death-rate was returned by Broach (41·61) and the lowest by Bombay Suburban (19·78). In Bombay City the registered deaths amounted to 31,657.

Infant Mortality.—There were 138,213 deaths among infants under twelve months, a ratio of 194·63 per 1,000 registered births against 162·01 in 1925. The improvement in these figures seen last year received a set back during the year under report. Mortality amongst infants was greatest in the first month of life. The number of deaths among infants in Bombay City under one year of age was 8,200, being 988 more than in 1925. In Bombay City the usual measures for the reduction of Infant Mortality were taken during the year. Municipal nurses daily visited the localities and chawls

inhabited by the poor and gave advice as to the care and up-bringing of infants and did much useful work in diffusing elementary knowledge of the principles of Health and Hygiene among ignorant people. Ten nurses were employed in 1926. The work done by the Infant Welfare Society has increased considerably.

" In Hyderabad and Karachi there has been an unaccountable increase in maternal deaths," says the Director of Public Health. " It is however becoming noticeable that all the towns in Upper Sind are showing an improvement in the maternal mortality. This improvement can safely be attributed to the child and maternity welfare movement which has made considerable progress in Upper Sind recently mainly through the efforts of the Women's Health Education Society and to the Mrs. Hamid Ali Maternity Home. Maternity service has considerably improved in Upper Sind and trained nurses are gradually being introduced into villages where the untrained Dai has had a free hand so far. The popularity of the Shikarpur Maternity Home has steadily increased and excellent work is being turned out in spite of many difficulties. The ' Mrs. Hamid Ali Maternity Home ' has also enlarged its activities and is doing able and efficient work. Miss Piggott's Institution for training Dais in Hyderabad is also doing good work."

Some figures from the Annual Sanitary Report for 1926 are given below :—

Among the civil European population of 19,247—246 births and 203 deaths were recorded as against 278 and 210 respectively in 1925. The calculated birth-rate per mille for 1926 was 12·78 and the death-rate 10·55.

Anglo-Indians numbered 10,221 and 288 births and 250 deaths were registered against 227 and 209 respectively in 1925. The birth and death ratios per mille were 28·18 and 24·46 respectively in 1926.

Among the civil Indian population of 19,165,614—710,135 births were registered showing an increase of 45,751 over the figure for 1925 and also of 66,397 on the decennial mean figure—643,738. The year 1926 showed the highest number of births recorded since 1916. The birth-rate for the year for the Presidency as a whole was 37·05 against 34·66 during the previous year. For the Presidency proper excluding Bombay City and Sind, the rate was 41·35 against 39·12 in 1925 and for the Province of Sind 24·30 against 20·58 in 1925. The

rates recorded in other parts of India for the last two years are given below and it will be seen that an increase in the birth-rate was general throughout India, except in Bengal :—

	1926	1925
Madras ..	.. 36·10	33·71
Bengal ..	.. 27·43	29·60
Assam ..	.. 30·82	29·08
Burma ..	.. 27·59	25·38
Bihar and Orissa ..	.. 37·28	35·63
United Provinces ..	.. 34·20	32·73
Punjab ..	.. 41·65	40·06
Central Provinces ..	.. 46·03	43·90

For every 100 females 108·06 males were born. Still-births numbered 11,550 against 10,862 in the previous year.

The total number of deaths registered was 547,264 as compared with 453,563 in 1925 and 486,062 the quinquennial mean. 106·39 males died for every 100 females. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency works out to 28·55, against 23·66 in 1925 and 25·36 the quinquennial mean. For other parts of India the death-rates recorded were as follows :—

	1926	1925
Madras ..	.. 25·57	24·40
Bengal ..	.. 24·74	24·90
Assam ..	.. 23·02	22·52
Burma ..	.. 20·92	18·75
Bihar and Orissa ..	.. 25·71	23·69
Punjab ..	.. 36·52	29·97
United Provinces ..	.. 25·10	24·78
Central Provinces ..	.. 34·33	27·27

It will be seen from the above table that an increase in the death-rate was general throughout India, except in Bengal.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 8·50 per mille. The infant mortality rate for the Presidency was 194·63 per 1,000 registered births as against 162·01 in 1925. The male and female rates were 203·43 and 185·12, respectively, as compared with 167·69 and 155·81 in the previous year.

In Bombay City the birth and death-rates were 18·02 and 27·56, the infant mortality rate being 393·79 compared with 359·05 in 1925.

The male and female death-rates among Hindus were 30·48 and 31·13 per mille, among Muhammadans 21·30 and 22·76, among Parsis 18·30 and 19·00, among Christians 18·01 and 19·09 and among Jains 16·62 and 19·78 respectively.

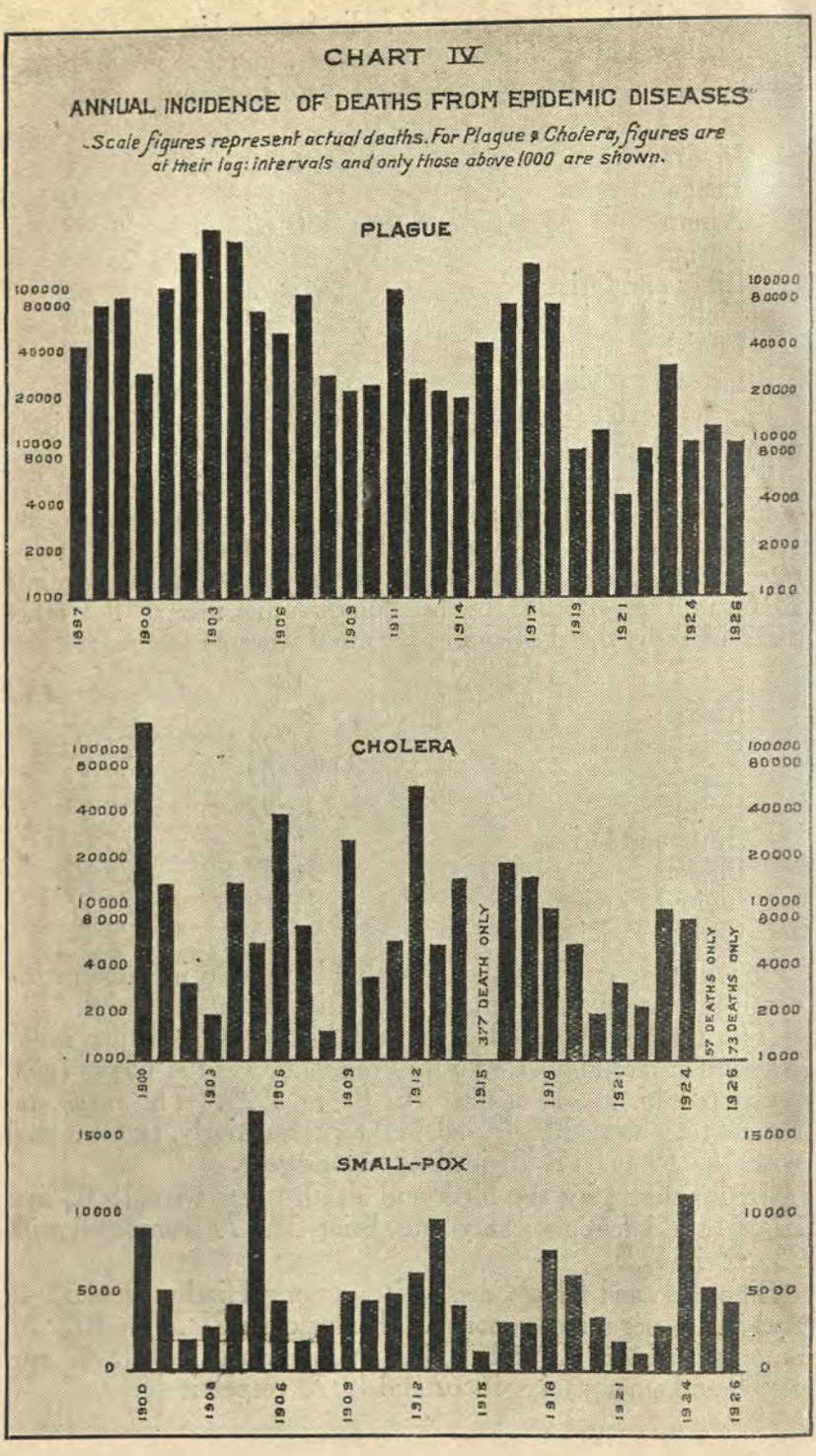


CHART IV
ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES
Scale figures represent actual deaths. For Plague & Cholera, figures are at their log: intervals and only those above 1000 are shown.
PLAGUE
100000
80000
40000
20000
10000
8000
4000
2000
1000
1897
1900
1903
1906
1909
1911
1914
1917
1919
1921
1924
1926
CHOLERA
100000
80000
40000
20000
10000
8000
4000
2000
1000
377 DEATH ONLY
57 DEATHS ONLY
73 DEATHS ONLY
1900
1903
1906
1909
1912
1915
1918
1921
1924
1926
SMALL-POX
15000
10000
5000
0
1900
1903
1906
1909
1912
1915
1918
1921
1924
1926

Deaths among all Indians totalled 547,264—cholera being responsible for only 73, small-pox for 3,922, plague for 9,866, fevers for 222,466, dysentery and diarrhœa for 34,158, respiratory diseases for 103,038, injuries for 7,672, and all other causes for 166,069. The following table shows the number of deaths in 1926 and the ratios per 1,000 of population arranged according to causes and contrasted with the figures for 1925 and with the mean for the preceding five years :—

Causes	1926		1925		Mean for five years	
	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio
Cholera ..	73	·00	57	·00	4,761	·25
Small-pox ..	3,922	·20	5,644	·29	4,510	·23
Plague ..	9,866	·51	12,601	·66	13,721	·72
Fevers ..	222,466	11·61	183,764	9·59	203,700	10·63
Dysentery and Diarrhœa ..	34,158	1·78	20,643	1·08	23,945	1·25
Respiratory Diseases	103,038	5·38	83,047	4·33	86,910	4·53
Injuries ..	7,672	·40	7,754	·40	7,668	·40
Other Causes ..	166,069	8·67	140,053	7·31	140,847	7·35
All Causes ..	547,264	28·55	453,563	23·66	486,062	25·36

Charts illustrating total deaths and deaths by causes, death-rate at each age-period and annual incidence of deaths from epidemic diseases are attached.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Plague.—During the year the total number of deaths recorded for the Presidency was 9,866 equal to a death-rate of ·51 as contrasted with 12,601 with a death-rate of ·66. Fifty-six deaths were reported in Bombay City during the year. Aden was quite free from Plague.

For a number of years now the heavy incidence has been confined to five or six districts in the Deccan and for the year under report four of these contributed some 87 per cent. of the mortality. They were Dharwar 3,969, Satara 2,450, East Khandesh 1,304 and Bijapur 805. Ratnagiri was responsible for 64 deaths and Karachi City for 27 ; otherwise the North Konkan and Sind were almost free from the disease. Gujarat was entirely immune as was Baroda State. Other Native States returned 1,099, Kolhapur and S. M. C. States showing the highest figures, *viz.* 803.

Four special plague inoculators were engaged by the Public Health Department at the outbreak of the epidemic to supplement the Medical Officers of dispensaries, private practitioners and others. The total number of persons inoculated during

the year under report was 84,900 as compared with 60,831 in the previous year. Out of these 400 were performed in Bombay City.

Cholera.—In 1926 the Presidency was practically free from cholera as during the year previous, only 73 deaths having occurred—by far the lowest figure recorded during the last fifty years.

There was thus nothing in the nature of an epidemic although cases occurred over a fairly wide area, fifteen collectorates out of twenty-seven in the Presidency as a whole being affected. The usual precautionary and preventive measures were carried out, a grant of Rs. 15,000 being sanctioned by Government for this purpose.

Small-pox.—The total number of deaths from small-pox was 3,922 equal to a death-rate of ·20 per mille compared with 5,644 and ·29 in 1925 and 4,510 and ·23 the mean of the previous five years. Of the 3,922 deaths from small-pox, 963 were of infants under one year and 1,715 of children between one and ten years of age. 82 per cent. of the mortality occurred during the first six months of the year, May recording the maximum mortality. Small-pox year normally begins about October-November, reaches its maximum in March or April, and then declines.

Influenza.—There was a slight rise in mortality from influenza as compared with the previous year, the total number of deaths during the year being 362 against 192 in the preceding year.

Malaria.—54,224 deaths were registered in the whole Presidency against 48,505 in 1925, the death-rate being 2·83 against 2·53 in 1925. The urban and rural death-rates were 1·13 and 3·24 respectively as compared with ·95 and 2·91 in 1925. As usual rural death-rates are considerably higher than urban. The highest rural death-rates from malaria were recorded in Sind. Sukkur was the district of greatest severity showing a rural death-rate of 15·13, Thar and Parkar coming next with a rate of 14·50. By urban circles, the highest death-rates in Sind were recorded in Matiari (19·19).

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

Over three million patients are treated every year in the hospitals and dispensaries of the Presidency which are maintained out of public, local or municipal funds, or receive aid from Government. The total number of institutions open on 31st December 1926 was 644 as compared with 638 in 1925. There

were many important additions and improvements made at certain hospitals during the year under report.

The Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital Fund, which owes its existence to the initiative of His Excellency the Governor, was established on 9th December 1925, with the object of adding substantially to the existing hospital accommodation in the City of Bombay. The Committee of the Fund have drawn up a programme for the expansion of the J. J. and allied Hospitals extending over a period of 5 years, Government and the Fund jointly financing the Scheme, each contributing half the cost. The Bombay Municipality has likewise undertaken to contribute a similar share for any allotment that the Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital Fund may make towards the expenditure incurred for any expansion schemes that may be undertaken in connection with Municipal hospitals in Bombay. The expansion schemes are making satisfactory progress, funds having already been made available for the first year's programme and the fund being further prepared with its share of the cost for the second year's programme.

The total number of patients treated was 3,205,000 as compared with 2,835,700 in the previous year, an increase of 369,400 or 13·0 per cent. Both in-patients and out-patients contributed to the increase. Of the total treated 83,400 were in-patients and 3,121,700 were out-patients.

Of the indoor patients treated 51,595 were cured, 11,574 were relieved, 7,917 were discharged otherwise and 6,055 died. The ratio of deaths per cent. to the total treated was 7·3 as compared with 7·2 in the previous year.

The number of beds available was 6,627 or 179 more than in the previous year, the daily average number of patients occupying them being 3,837·2 as compared with 3,758·0 in the previous year. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 29,514·7 against 26,049·1.

The total number of patients treated at female hospitals and dispensaries showed a steady increase, being 129,564 as against 116,846.

During the year over 140,000 surgical operations were performed.

The total income, inclusive of cash balance, amounted to Rs. 60 lakhs of which Rs. 4·93 lakhs were contributed by local funds and Rs. 10·06 lakhs by municipal funds. The interest on invested capital yielded Rs. 92,700. Subscriptions amounted to Rs. 1 lakh, while of a total of over Rs. 5 lakhs under miscellaneous receipts Rs. 2·06 lakhs were realised

as hospital fees and Rs. 1·88 lakhs were contributed by nursing associations.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 56 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 1¾ lakhs on the previous year. The net cost was Rs. 53·65 lakhs.

SANITATION

Municipalities.—There were 156 municipalities, with a total population of 2,677,507. Their aggregate income amounted to Rs. 319 lakhs of which Rs. 97¾ lakhs were spent on the improvement of water-supplies, drainage, conservancy and other public health requirements.

Local Boards.—The aggregate income of 27 District Local Boards and 222 Taluka Local Boards amounted to Rs. 204½ lakhs. Of this more than Rs. 8 lakhs were spent on works connected with public health.

Village Sanitation.—Under the Bombay Village Panchayat Act (IX of 1920) and the Village Sanitation Act of 1889, 527 Sanitary Committees and Village Panchayats were working during the year excluding Belgaum and Ahmednagar Districts. In addition there were 23 Notified Area Committees and 2 Sanitary Boards.

Laboratories.—There are two Public Health Laboratories at present working, one in Poona and the other at Karachi. A laboratory at Ahmedabad is conducted by the Ahmedabad Municipality under the guidance of a qualified medical officer.

Pilgrim Centres.—The chief day of the Ashadhi fair at Pandharpur fell on 21st July 1926. The number of pilgrims who attended the fair was over 169,000. The arrangements at Kurduwadi in connection with the provision of sanitary and medical facilities were under the control of the Civil Surgeon, Sholapur. The usual medical arrangements were ready well before the pilgrims began to arrive in Pandharpur. Five Sub-Assistant Surgeons and 20 Final year medical students were engaged. The Infectious Diseases Hospital was in charge of Municipal Medical Officer. The incoming and outgoing pilgrims were inspected at the railway station and octroi nakas. Ambulances for the immediate removal of the sick were provided at various places in the town and at the nakas. Cases of infectious diseases were isolated with contacts. Only three cases of suspected cholera were detected. All were fatal. Two died in Hospital and one outside. All were from Umraoti (Berar).

At the Kartiki fair in November, the attendance was about 91,500 and the smaller Pandharpur fairs, the Chaitri and Kartiki

festivals at Alandi, the fairs at Shirala and Shingnapur were also catered for in respect of sanitary and preventive arrangements under the guidance of the public health staff.

The "Mahaparva," a festival which occurs about once in eighteen years, commenced at Nasik on the 12th January, lasted for four days, and about 78,000 pilgrims visited the place during this "Parvani." The sanitary arrangements were excellent.

Yellamma, Gokarn and Yamnur are the three important pilgrim centres in the Southern Registration District. The total number of pilgrims who attended these fairs was 125,000, 20,000 and 15,000 respectively. None of these fairs were responsible for any outbreak of epidemic diseases.

In Gujarat, the festivals at Vantha in Dholka Taluka and Shukaltirth in Broach Taluka were held on 1st and 18th November 1926 respectively at which 10,000 and 35,000 pilgrims assembled. All the arrangements pertaining to sanitation were satisfactory at both places. The "Manekthari Punem" Fair was held at Dakore in the 3rd week of October 1926.

The Lal Shahbaz Fair at Sehwan (Sind) was attended by 30,000 pilgrims.

Health Week.—The Health and Baby Week movement made increasing progress in the Presidency, celebrations being held in many important towns.

In Karachi, the Baby and Health Week was celebrated under the auspices of the Health Association in April 1926. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Cadell.

Baby Weeks were organised in many centres—Ahmedabad, Broach, Bhusawal, Igatpuri, Malegaon, Thana, Kurla, Bandra, Dhulia, Hubli, Bijapur, Navalgund and Gadag. Officers of the Public Health Department assisted in the work of organization and gave lectures and demonstrations.

Village Baby Scheme.—The Lady Wilson Village Baby Scheme movement made good progress. Up to 31st March 1927, 113 *dais* from 64 villages were brought to Poona, out of whom 108 were trained and 5 returned half-trained on account of domestic difficulties.

The scheme has been started in the Sholapur District on the same lines as in Poona.

VACCINATION

In the year 1926-27, 663,000 persons were primarily vaccinated and 117,000 persons re-vaccinated against 673,000 and 136,000 in the previous year. A decrease in primary vaccination was

observed in the Southern, Guzerat and Sind Registration Districts, the main cause being the prevalence of cholera towards the end of vaccination year in the Karnatik. The services of vaccinators in the badly affected talukas were utilized for cholera duty. In the Kanara District the decrease was due to the fact that during the previous year there was small-pox prevailing in the district and an unusually large number of vaccinations had been performed.

The decrease in Sind Registration District occurred after September 1926, owing to heavy rains and floods in almost the whole of Sind. This not only made travelling difficult for vaccinators but it was found that people were unwilling to get their children vaccinated during such unsettled conditions. Some vaccinators could not visit all the villages in their charges owing to the distances between these being too great to be completed in one year, and the prevalence of small-pox necessitated their presence in the affected parts. The highest decrease was noticeable in the Sukkur (selected) District.

The decrease in re-vaccination work observed in the Western, Southern and Guzerat Registration Districts can be attributed to the apathy of the public.

The total number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed in the whole settlement of Aden was 28,000 and 8,000 against 41,000 and 40,700 during the preceding year.

Of the primary vaccinations seen by vaccinators 534,000 or 89·23 per cent. were successful, 900 or ·15 per cent. were unsuccessful and the results could not be ascertained in the remaining 10·62 per cent. of the cases. The percentage of successful re-vaccination was 21·77. The results in 45·99 per cent. could not be ascertained.

Over 1,215,000 doses of lymph were issued from the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum. Besides the vaccinators of the Presidency, Baroda, Kotah, Jhalwar, Kathiawar, Palanpur, Mahi Kantha Agencies and Idar State were supplied with lymph. Civil Medical Officers and others in Zanzibar, Aden, Portuguese Territory, Persian Gulf and Arabia were supplied with 91,395 doses of lymph and Military Medical Officers with 34,635 doses.

The cost of vaccination came to Rs. 6·17 lakhs, the average cost of each successful case being Re. 1-0-10.

The Compulsory Vaccination Act has been in force in the following towns: Bombay, Bandra, Kurla, Ahmedabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Rohri, Larkana, Deolali Cantonment, Ahmednagar Cantonment, Belgaum Cantonment, Dhulia and Bhusawal towns and Aden.

THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE

The report of the Haffkine Institute for the year 1926 showed that the output of plague prophylactic was the largest in the history of the Institute. In addition to the nearly 2½ million doses issued, the end of the year found the Institute with a reserve of about 11 lakhs of doses so that the total manufacture during the year was over 3½ million doses or more than 10 million cubic centimeters.

The vaccine is well received throughout India, and of the Punjab, still the great stronghold of plague, the Director of Public Health writes : " Its efficacy as a protective measure is now universally recognised and it is consequently a popular measure in almost all districts. No complaints have been recently received in regard to an excessive reaction or in any other respect."

Rats alive and dead were sent by the Bombay Municipality to the Institute for examination for plague to the number of nearly 580,000. This important work enables the Municipal Health Department to get warning of an outbreak of plague and, as the locality whence each rat came is known, the locality where plague may be expected is foreshadowed. It is understood that these examinations are the largest of the kind in any City in the world, and Bombay in this respect is frequently quoted as a model.

The anti-rabic section in the fifth year of its existence continued to develop. During the year 648 persons were treated at this Institute and 4,385 treatments were issued to different centres of which 13 are under the Government of Bombay and 18 in the Central Provinces, United Provinces, Indian States, Military Department, the Railways and Goa. One hundred and fourteen treatments were issued to Veterinary Surgeons for treating animals bitten by rabid animals.

During the year 592 experiments in connection with anti-plague inquiry were carried out.

The enquiry on maternal mortality and particularly on the anæmias of pregnancy was continued throughout the year by Dr. Margaret Balfour and her assistants. The lines on which the investigation has been carried out are in part epidemiological and clinical and in part pathological. The statistical enquiry has now been completed.

With the help of the Indian Research Fund Association, guineaworm investigation will be carried out in selected villages in the Deccan under the direction of the Director of Public Health, Bombay. The object of the investigation is the

destruction of the water cyclops, which harbours the infective stage of the guineaworm. The Association has also undertaken to finance a malarial survey in Sind, particularly in the area influenced by the Sukkur Barrage.

The year was noteworthy for the visit of the distinguished scientist, Professor d'Herelle, who worked in the laboratory from April to June on problems connected with bacteriophage. The experiments connected with it have not advanced far enough to justify any conclusions particularly as Dr. d'Herelle has been asked to return to India to resume his work on the treatment of plague, cholera and dysentery by bacteriophage.

VETERINARY

Bombay Presidency.—During the year 1926-27 outbreaks of contagious diseases among cattle occurred in all the districts and in the city of Bombay. With the exception of rinderpest the mortality from bovine contagious diseases was greater than usual and this may be ascribed to the heavy rains which fell in certain districts. The total mortality from contagious diseases however was very much less than in the previous year. The total number of attacks and deaths was 65,579 and 11,613 as against 74,597 and 26,734 last year.

Rinderpest was prevalent in the Kolaba, Ratnagiri, Satara, Dharwar and Kanara Districts. The highest recorded mortality was in the month of May, when 1,126 deaths were reported. In the other districts the disease was not widespread. The total number of villages affected in the Presidency was 360 in which 15,189 cattle were attacked and 7,002 died. In the previous year 1,382 villages were affected recording 52,465 attacks and 23,645 deaths. Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia affected 3,575 head of cattle and caused 2,838 deaths. The mortality from Black Quarter was greater than in the preceding year, 476 deaths having been recorded as against 318 in the previous year. There were 757 outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease which affected 43,852 head of cattle and caused 230 deaths.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of inoculations and vaccinations undertaken during the year as compared with the year 1925-26. The decrease was entirely under rinderpest, the number performed against other diseases showing an increase over the previous year. The decrease in the number of rinderpest inoculations was due to the disease being less prevalent. The number of animals protected against this disease by the Serum method was 23,159 as against 91,300 in the previous year. Inoculations were also

carried out against Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia, Black Quarter and Anthrax.

The work in hospitals and dispensaries continued to expand. Seven new veterinary dispensaries were opened during the year, bringing the total in the Presidency Proper to 103. The number of cases treated at hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 135,299 and medicines were supplied to 45,867 cases for treatment at home. The corresponding numbers in the previous year were 124,099 and 39,947.

Sind.—One hundred and seventy-seven outbreaks of rinderpest affecting 4,986 head of cattle and causing 1,720 deaths were reported. There were 184 outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease affecting 7,021 cattle and resulting in 81 deaths. Seventy-eight outbreaks of Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia were reported and 869 head of cattle were affected.

Preventive inoculations were carried on as usual. During the year under report Veterinary Assistant Surgeons visited 1,686 villages and treated 3,627 cases for contagious diseases and 1,363 for non-contagious diseases.

There were 18 veterinary dispensaries working at the end of the year. The number of cases treated was 26,438.

The total cost of the Civil Veterinary Department in the Presidency proper was Rs. 2,60,000 and in Sind Rs. 1,85,000.

CHEMICAL ANALYSERS

The work of the Chemical Analysers to Government in Bombay and Sind is connected with the protection of the public either by the examination of the data relating to crime or suspected crime or by the examination of food-stuffs, water, etc. The medico-legal cases investigated during the year in Bombay totalled 804 of which 369 were cases of suspected human poisoning. Of the latter, poison was detected in 186 cases involving the poisoning of 187 persons, 124 of whom died.

In the Laboratory at Karachi 233 medico-legal cases were investigated, 62 of them being cases of suspected human poisoning.

The examination of stains for blood or other evidences of crime is also an important part of the work of the Chemical Analysers. Five hundred and four such cases were examined during the year in Bombay and Karachi.

WILD ANIMALS AND VENOMOUS SNAKES

The number of wild animals destroyed during the year rose from 6,905 to 9,445. Of these Ratnagiri was responsible for the

destruction of 2,338 wild animals, Dharwar 1,736, Belgaum 1,462, and Kanara 1,331. The total number of tigers destroyed was 48 against 61 last year.

The total number of snakes destroyed during the year rose from 22,078 to 25,166, Ratnagiri being responsible for 12,440, Thar and Parkar 5,386, Nawabshah 1,546, Dangs 1,236 and Sukkur 1,184.

The number of persons reported killed by wild animals totalled 45 against 56 in the previous year, while the mortality caused by snake bite increased from 1,325 to 1,488 of which Ratnagiri was responsible for 321, Thana 177, Satara 102 and Nawabshah 97.

MENTAL HOSPITALS

There are six Mental Hospitals in the Presidency and the number of patients treated in them was 2,136, an increase of 100 over the previous year, the number of admissions being 598. Criminal insanes numbered 242. During the year 332 patients were discharged cured, 61 improved, 19 not improved and 29 were discharged otherwise.

Of the persons admitted during the year, 26 were Europeans and Eurasians, 30 Indian Christians, 358 Hindus, 138 Muhammadans and 46 other castes. Domestic servants and labourers formed the largest number of admissions followed by merchants and traders, clerks, cultivators, mendicants and students. The great majority of them were between 20 and 40 years of age.

In those cases where the causes of insanity could be ascertained mental stress was the chief cause of lunacy.

There were 194 deaths against 107 in 1925. The ratio of deaths per cent. of the daily average strength was 12·6 as compared with 6·9 in the preceding year. The unusually large death rate at the Mental Hospitals at Thana and Dharwar was found to be fortuitous and is not likely to recur. At the Mental Hospital, Hyderabad, it was due to an outbreak of influenza.

" It is deserving of notice," says the Superintendent, Central Mental Hospital, Yeravda, " that the observation cases are increasing every year ; there were 11 in 1924, 27 in 1925, and 32 in 1926. Many of these cases are brought to the Hospital by parents or relatives in the same way as other cases are taken to General Hospitals for diagnosis and treatment. It is an indication that the work and purpose of the Hospital are becoming more widely known to the general public and signs are not wanting that the old stigma, formerly attached to patients admitted to this Hospital, is gradually disappearing, as public opinion becomes more educated about mental diseases and their treatment."

The net expenditure on hospitals amounted to Rs. 5·37 lakhs against Rs. 5·21 lakhs in 1925.

Apart from domestic work in the institutions, gardening, weaving and cane work formed the chief occupations for the inmates.

ACWORTH LEPER ASYLUM, MATUNGA

The Acworth Leper Asylum was founded in the year 1890 by H. A. Acworth, Esqr., C.I.E., I.C.S, who was then the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, from public donations, and it provides accommodation for the segregation of pauper Indian lepers. It is in charge of a Resident Superintendent who works under the orders of the Board of Management, consisting of 20 members, of whom 3 are appointed by Government, 5 by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay and 12 are co-opted annually.

The cost of maintaining lepers who are not residents of Bombay is borne by Government, and that of Bombay lepers by the Municipality. The other sources of income are the garden and the sewage farm and occasional donations.

The Asylum accommodates 364 lepers, 222 male and 142 female. The total number of persons treated in the Asylum during the year 1926 was 555, composed of 381 males, 169 females, 1 male child and 4 female children. Four hundred and nine were Hindus, 92 Indian Christians and 54 Muhammadans. Ninety-one deaths occurred in the Asylum during the year.

Lepers who wish to work are provided with employment in the garden or the sewage farm and are given a small allowance which they use in buying small luxuries from a co-operative shop which is run for them on the Asylum premises.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,21,600.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

There is very little emigration and immigration in the Bombay Presidency in the sense in which it is usually understood, that is, the departure of Indians for foreign countries and the arrival of foreigners for settlement in India.

With the exception of the usual migration to Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur and to the two Khandesh districts during the cotton season, there was no inter-divisional migration worth mentioning in the Presidency Proper during the year although inter-district migration continued as usual. There was a regular annual influx into Ahmedabad City and Viramgam of labourers and artisans from Kathiawar, Marwar and Cutch. The majority

of them work for some months and then return to their native places. Except in Jamkhed Mahal and Sangamner and Kopergaon Talukas in the Ahmednagar District there was the usual temporary exodus, after the reaping season, of day labourers and small land holders to the Berars, Central Provinces and Bombay in search of labour to tide them over till the break of the monsoon. Owing to scarcity conditions in the latter half of the year emigration was on a larger scale than last year. In Kopergaon cane crushing and *gul* making attracted about 8,000 people from the surrounding talukas and in Shrigonda Taluka 1,000 labourers found employment on the Visapur canal works and the Bhima causeway mostly from outside the talukas. Sholapur, being a great centre of mill industry, attracted a large number of labourers from distant and surrounding villages of the district and also from the Nizam's Dominions. The majority being weavers, they were able to find without much difficulty remunerative employment both in the mills and the hand-loom factories. Barsi is another centre of trade to which labourers from adjoining villages migrated in large numbers. There was seasonal immigration of cartmen and coolies into above-ghat talukas from Goa and other adjoining districts. It was more in evidence this year as people in large numbers emigrated from Dharwar and Bijapur Districts where the season was poor. In Sind conditions as regards migration have altered to some extent in view of the continuous demand for labour on the Lloyd Barrage. Owing to the unfavourable inundation many labourers went to Sukkur in search of work. In the Larkana District Pathans as usual came in the winter for clearance and excavation work at Mohenjodaro and on the Barrage Canals and left after the season. Brohis and Balochis came down from the hill tracts during the harvesting season and returned by the end of the cold weather.

Thousands of labourers found employment in Bombay City and its suburbs on the schemes in connection with the remodelling of the various stations as a result of the electrification of the local sections of both the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways and the reclamation work of the Development Department. In Panch Mahals District there was an extensive demand for labour for railway construction work at Dohad.

There were about 500 emigrants to South Africa from Broach, Surat, Kaira, Kolaba and Ratnagiri and nearly 2,000 people (including women and children) from Thana, Kolaba and Nasik emigrated to the Assam Tea Plantations in the hope of getting better wages.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

DURING the past decade the policy of Government has been to give more and more power to Local Bodies and, where control is exercised, to use that control solely for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the tax-payers, especially where Government funds have been lent for local purposes. This policy is especially noticeable in the case of municipalities. In Bombay City the powers of the Corporation are practically uncontrolled, while in the mofussil Government control has been to a very considerable extent relaxed. There are in the Presidency 29 Municipal Boroughs and 127 Municipalities. The former are governed by the Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925 and the latter by the provisions of the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901.

The principal duties of municipalities lie in the direction of the provision and maintenance of public and utility services such as roads, dispensaries, water supply, sanitation and education. They have power to raise funds both by direct and indirect taxation. Moreover, when the circumstances of a case require it and the Local Body is prepared to make adequate efforts to help itself, Government renders assistance both by loans and grants-in-aid (subject to a limit of 50 per cent. of the cost in the latter case) towards the cost of big undertakings. By this means Poona, Lonavla, Nasik, Jalgaon, Karad, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Hubli, Hyderabad, Sukkur and other towns have been provided with an improved water supply and Poona with a complete system of underground drainage. In some cases, where the question of good water supply is of more than local importance, water-works have been constructed entirely at Government expense. Pandharpur, a great pilgrim centre, is a case in point. Town improvements and the opening out of congested and insanitary areas are other objects for which Government make liberal grants. Considerable improvements in the sanitary services of urban areas have been brought about by Government's assistance. Municipalities with a population of 15,000 and over may appoint Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Government

bear two-thirds of the cost of the Health Officers and one-half of the cost of Sanitary Inspectors.

Municipalities are now allowed practically a free hand in the matter of the selection and appointment of their Chief Officers.

The special feature of the year under review was the passing of the Bombay City Municipalities Act, XVIII of 1925, which provided a more adequate basis for municipal administration in larger cities of the Bombay Presidency. Under that Act most of the City Municipalities are now called Municipal Boroughs.

The Municipalities of Sanand, Prantij, Dhandhuka and Kalyan in the Northern Division, whose terms of office expired during the year, were reconstituted on the basis of communal representation, while the Municipalities of Mahableshwar and Satara Suburban in the Central Division continued to consist wholly of nominated members.

The aggregate ordinary income of the Municipalities excluding items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" rose from Rs. 222¾ lakhs to Rs. 235¾ lakhs. The Central and Bombay Suburban Divisions and Sind showed an increase, while the Northern and Southern Divisions showed a decrease. The incidence of taxation was highest at Alandi (Rs. 16-6-7) and lowest at Betavad (Re. 0-10-9). The aggregate expenditure including items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" amounted to Rs. 343½ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 22 lakhs over the previous year. The various Municipalities now have loan debts amounting to Rs. 148 lakhs, the Ahmedabad Municipality alone being responsible for Rs. 55·90 lakhs. Over Rs. 3 lakhs were repaid by the Municipalities during the year.

Government, in reviewing the working of the Municipalities in the Bombay Presidency during 1925-26, remarked as follows :—

"The increased expenditure on such important matters as conservancy, roads, water supply and drainage is a gratifying testimony to the efforts which are being made by the Municipal bodies to introduce improvements and maintain a high standard of efficiency in their administration. It is still more satisfactory to find that there is a growing tendency among these Local bodies to rely on their own credit in raising funds in the open market required for sanitary improvements such as drainage and water works, and to undertake them without relying on any grant-in-aid from Government. The opportunities thus given to the citizens of the Municipalities to invest money in their

own local loans not only provide a useful and lucrative form of investment, but also must awaken a keener interest in Municipal affairs, when it is realized that the value of the investments must rise and fall with the Municipal credit which must depend on the efficiency of the administration. At the same time the list of Municipal wants, which appears to grow larger each year, shows that the Municipal Bodies are still a long way from satisfying the demands of their citizens. It is in fact clear that the demand for modern amenities on the part of the public has outrun the resources both of the Local bodies and of the Provincial Government who can no longer give grants for sanitary improvements on the scale on which they were formerly given. It is illogical for the tax-payer to clamour for more amenities, and to clamour still louder when he is asked to pay an additional anna or two by way of taxation in order to meet the cost of them. This attitude shows that there is still a lamentable absence of any real civic sense among the bulk of the people including the members of the Municipal Councils who are unwilling to face the unpopularity which inevitably attends all schemes for reforms which involve an increase in taxation.

"The absence of any real civic conscience among the bulk of the inhabitants of the Municipal towns is further evidenced by the heavy arrears of municipal dues which were left outstanding at the close of the year, and still more by the fact that some of the worst offenders in this connection are Municipal Councillors themselves. In fact the number of Municipal Councillors in arrears of municipal dues has shown a steady increase during the past three or four years. In the opinion of Government the conduct of these gentlemen in refusing to pay their dues promptly is disgraceful. It is impossible to expect the ordinary citizens to pay their dues promptly when such a bad example is set to them by their own elected Councillors. In order to bring such offenders to book, Government desire that in future the Collectors should report to the Commissioners the names of the Municipal Councillors of the various municipalities who were in arrears in payment of their municipal dues at the close of the financial year under report, giving the amounts due and the dates from which they have been outstanding. The Commissioners should send a consolidated list for their Divisions to Government giving the names of the municipalities and the defaulters, the amounts due and dates from which they are outstanding. These details will then be published in a Press Note by Government with their remarks.

It is hoped that the fear of publicity may have the desired effect on gentlemen who do not hesitate to misuse their local influence as Municipal Councillors to their own advantage."

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY

The revenue for the year 1926-27 was Rs. 321·36 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 301·63 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 19·73 lakhs. The income showed an increase of Rs. 16·04 lakhs and the expenditure an increase of Rs. 10·75 lakhs over the previous year. The principal increases were under General Tax (3¾ lakhs), Town Duties (2 lakhs), Returns from Property and Miscellaneous (3½ lakhs), Water Works (1½ lakhs), Drainage and Sewerage (1¾ lakhs) and Fire Tax (½ lakh). The incidence of taxation per head increased from Rs. 21-14-4 to Rs. 22-4-6 for the year.

During the year under report Rs. 70 lakhs were taken up by the Corporation from Government out of the loan of Rs. 150 lakhs (1925-26). Reduction of debt during the year amounted to Rs. 46 lakhs. The loan liabilities of the Corporation at the close of the year stood at Rs. 1,841 lakhs. The total sinking fund investments made up to 31st March 1927 totalled Rs. 295 lakhs.

General conditions as regards the prices of building materials were more favourable than in the preceding year. In the Church Gate scheme the whole of the work was completed and the surplus land disposed of. The acquisition proceedings in the Golanji Hill scheme were completed and arrangements are being made to excavate the hill. Eighteen further properties were acquired in the Hornby Road-Ballard Pier scheme at a cost of Rs. 22·22 lakhs. Forty-eight buildings were demolished and a sum of Rs. 81,585 realised from the sale of building materials. It is hoped that the main 80 feet avenue will be opened to traffic by June 1928.

Estimates for the roads in Mahim Park were submitted to the Corporation and the opening up of these roads will greatly facilitate the sale of surplus lands. Assessment in the Mahim district was increased by about 175 per cent. and this increase is likely to continue as development progresses. New pattern storm-water entrances were provided on various roads as an anti-malarial measure. About 76 miles of pipe sewers, 16 miles of main sewers and 28 miles of storm-water drains were cleaned during the year.

The whole of the water supply to the city during the year was drawn from the Tansa lake except during twelve days of April

when 4½ million gallons per day were brought from Tulsi lake. No water was drawn from Vehar or Powai lakes during the year. The year under report saw the completion, with the exception of about 200 feet, of the 57-inch pipe line in Bombay up to Nana's Chowk, at which point it will be connected to the existing system, and with it the practical completion of the whole work as designed. The benefit of the increased supply has been felt since September 1925, but the full supply of 90 million gallons a day will be available as soon as the pipes in Bombay have been cleaned and taken into use. The total amount spent on the Tansa completion works up to 31st March 1927 amounted to approximately Rs. 503 lakhs.

The efficiency of the Fire Brigade throughout the year was as great as ever and reflects the greatest credit on the Chief Officer and his assistants. The spirit and training of the men was excellent and it is interesting to note that the experiment recently made in recruiting Indian Officers has so far proved successful. The number of calls received during the year was 467, of which 125 were false alarms, against 443 and 118 during the preceding year. The total damage by fires amounted to Rs. 9·92 lakhs against Rs. 9·83 lakhs in 1925-26.

The total deaths numbered 31,991, being 23 more than in 1925. The mortality among infants was 8,200 as against 7,212 in 1925. The rate of infant mortality per 1,000 births was 389 as compared with 356 in the preceding year. The King Edward Memorial Hospital is now practically fully equipped and there were 267 beds as against 125 at the commencement of the year. During the year 4,378 in-patients and 26,627 out-patients were treated. The total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the Hospital was Rs. 3·41 lakhs.

Reviewing the general financial position of the Municipality, the Chief Accountant remarks :—

"The weakest spot in the financial position is, however, to be found in our liabilities on account of loans for Development Schemes. For the payment of interest and repayment of the loans it was expected that the sale proceeds of Surplus Land would suffice, if not wholly at least to a large extent. There is no immediate prospect of such sales to an appreciable extent nor it is now expected the amount that will be so realised will be up to the estimates. The payment of interest charges has so far been made mostly from the Land and Buildings Fund, but this source would soon be exhausted. No provision in the form of Sinking Fund exists and as ordered by the Standing Committee under their Resolution No. 5344 of 17th August

1927, a Sinking Fund will have to be provided. The amount outstanding on account of these loans is Rs. 1,63,74,000 taken from Government and Rs. 39,94,000 from the owners of land in the schemes. Government have not accepted the Corporation's proposal to consolidate the loans into one loan at 5 per cent. interest and thirty years currency. Whatever method is ultimately approved by the Government of India, the burden on the revenue resources of the Corporation will be no small one until expectation of sales of lands materialises. The loan of Rs. 39,94,000 is due for repayment on 1st August 1929 and no provision has so far been made towards its redemption on the due date !

"While such is the position with regard to existing loan liabilities, works in progress have to be completed, new works required have to be undertaken and financed. In addition to this the big drainage scheme is still to be taken in hand, all of which will mean additional loan liabilities and consequent increase in debt charges which are required to be found from revenue resources. Finally the Corporation has sanctioned the scheme for conversion of privies into water-closets by giving subsidies to the owners concerned and this will require to be financed. Although the scheme has been shown to be economically sound, the savings in establishment, etc., will accrue after the Scheme has sufficiently progressed but in the meantime additional burden will have to be borne by revenue. The financial position of the Corporation is therefore such that utmost care is needed in regard to new expenditure both revenue and loan."

LOCAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Every Local Board is presided over by a president who is elected from amongst the non-official members of the board. In addition a vice-president is also similarly elected. The funds at the disposal of the boards consist chiefly of the local fund cess on Land Revenue, but there are other sources of revenue, such as proceeds of ferries, tolls on Local Fund roads, quarrying fees, etc. The boards have also the power to levy, with the sanction of the Commissioner, such local taxes as a local authority is authorized to impose under section 80A (3) (*a*) of the Government of India Act. In addition, considerable grants are made by Government for education, roads and bridges, the improvement of communications, water-supply and village sanitation, and the proper equipment and maintenance of dispensaries.

In 1925-26 Government's contribution to the expenditure of local boards under the more important heads of Education, Medical and Civil Works compared with the total expenditure under the respective heads was as shown below :—

	Government contribution	Total expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Education	84,79,161	97,80,077
Medical	2,16,565	9,82,187
Civil Works	24,03,569	50,52,006

The greater part of the revenue is usually spent by the District Board on works of general utility to the whole district, but each taluka board has funds at its disposal to enable it to carry out and maintain works of purely local utility for which it is primarily responsible. At least one-third of the net revenue from the local fund cess and the cess on water rate must be spent on education.

There was no change in the number of District and Taluka Local Boards in any of the districts except the Bombay Suburban District where the two taluka local boards of Ambernath and South Salsette were abolished from 1st November 1925. All the Local Boards had non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents in accordance with section 22 (3) of the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923. The total membership was 4,329 of whom 3,335 were elected. The average percentages of members present at each meeting of the Taluka and the District Local Board were 68·2 and 79·4 in the Northern Division, 68·95 and 72·46 in the Central Division, 68·99 and 79·69 in the Southern Division and 54·73 and 66·92 in Sind.

The aggregate income of the Boards fell from Rs. 203 lakhs to Rs. 198 lakhs. The incidence of taxation was highest in Bombay Suburban (Re. 0-8-3) and the lowest in Ratnagiri (Re. 0-0-10). Expenditure rose from Rs. 192¼ lakhs to Rs. 209½ lakhs, Education (Rs. 103½ lakhs), Medical Relief (11½ lakhs) and Public Works (48 lakhs) being the principal items of expenditure.

A Government Resolution reviewing the administration of Local Boards for 1925-26 remarks :—

" The administration of the Boards was on the whole fairly satisfactory. The working of the Public Works Department section in some districts still leaves much to be desired for want of a qualified staff. Those Boards which have not yet appointed qualified Engineers should realize the necessity of doing so at an early date. Failure to make such appointments

must entail a great deal of inefficiency and waste in the execution of works, and points to a lack of a proper sense of their responsibilities on the part of the Presidents and members of the Boards concerned.

The reconstitution of the Boards on an elective basis as provided under the new Act of 1923 was an important feature of the year under review. In some districts the interest shown in the elections was not very keen; in others the elections were run on communal lines. On the whole the results were satisfactory.

Lack of funds continued to be the principal difficulty of the Boards. Most of them were unwilling to avail themselves of the powers of taxation conferred upon them by the Act of 1923 and preferred to rely on the financial support of Government. Under the present financial conditions it is idle to expect any increase in the already large grants-in-aid given by Government. The Boards must realize this, and if they desire increased amenities must be prepared to provide the requisite funds by increased taxation. The incidence of taxation in all districts is decidedly low. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Local Board revenue everywhere is inadequate to meet the primary obligations of the Boards."

BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST

The expenditure on capital works was Rs. 23·42 lakhs against Rs. 42·76 lakhs in the preceding year. Progress was made in the Sion, Matunga, Nowroji Hill, Parel Street (Scheme 31). East Agripada, Sydenham Road, Parel Road (Central), Parel Road (Northern), Worli, Kolbhatwadi, Sewri-Wadala, Naigaum and Mahalaxmi Schemes.

In all 1,233 cases came before the Land Acquisition Officer including the opening balance of 1,231 and out of these 1,190 remained outstanding at the close of the year. Awards amounting to Rs. 7·74 lakhs were made for land aggregating 36,837 square yards, an average rate of Rs. 26·53 per square yard as against Rs. 10·80 per square yard for the previous year.

The area of developed land permanently leased decreased from 21·42 to 21·20 lakhs square yards and the rental increased from Rs. 25·6 to Rs. 26·1 lakhs. The area of unleased developed land at the close of the year was 15·06 lakhs square yards as against 14·79 lakhs square yards at the close of the previous year.

The average population in the Board's chawls and semi-permanent camps was 32,049. The average death-rate

for all chawls per 1,000 was 7·68 which showed a slight increase as against 6·98 in the preceding year. The death-rate in each of the Board's chawls and camps was however considerably lower than that of the respective Municipal section.

The total yearly rental of the 9,309 rooms (including shops and godowns) and 214 looms in the Trust chawls amounted to Rs. 8·63 lakhs and the revenue actually collected was Rs. 7·67 lakhs or 93·66 per cent. of the total demand including arrears of the previous year. The net annual return on the chawls works out to 2·43 per cent. on the outlay. The Board have to pay interest and Sinking Fund charges at 4·61 per cent. per annum on money spent prior to 1919, 6·35 per cent. per annum from 1920 to 1925-26. The Board has thus to pay Rs. 4·21 lakhs over and above the net income from these chawls, which represents a loss of Rs. 48·6 per room per annum on an average.

The number of plots disposed of was 50 as against 57 in the previous year and their total area and capital value were 44,988 square yards and Rs. 15·63 lakhs respectively as against 52,374 square yards and Rs. 22·30 lakhs respectively for the previous year. The collection of ground rent amounted to Rs. 27·96 lakhs and the rents realised from buildings acquired but not demolished and from lands let for cultivation, etc., amounted to Rs. 13·31 lakhs.

The recreation grounds at Lalbaug and Dadar were equipped with swings and gymnastic apparatus with a view to enabling the children of the working classes to have the benefit of the same.

The Capital Account stood as follows :—

	Rs.	
Opening balance	.. 117·67 lakhs.	
Loan receipts	.. 25·25 „	
Sale proceeds	.. 8·01 „	
Expenditure	.. 65·65 „	(including a deficit of Rs. 21·12 lakhs on the general account).
Closing balance	.. 85·28 lakhs.	

The expenditure on acquisition and works was Rs. 36·29 lakhs as against Rs. 51·86 lakhs in the previous year and the expenditure under Management and Establishment and incidental expenses was Rs. 8·23 lakhs as against Rs. 8·76 lakhs in the previous year.

The total borrowings of the Trust as on 31st March 1927 stood at Rs. 15 crores 49 lakhs involving payment of interest and Sinking Fund charges of nearly Rs. 92½ lakhs per annum.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST

The original estimates of receipts for the year 1926-27 were framed on the assumption that there would be a slight improvement in trade conditions as compared with the previous year, but the disastrous and prolonged coal strike in England, the civil strife in China and the absence of demand from Europe were factors which acted adversely both on imports and exports. The abnormal American cotton crop, combined with the high level of prices for Indian cotton as compared with the American staple and the late arrival of the crop into Bombay were responsible for a considerable falling off in exports of raw cotton during the year. These causes led to a serious diminution of the Trustees' receipts, and it was obvious that the year's working would show a heavy deficit. To counterbalance the fall in receipts and reduce the deficit to more moderate proportions the energies of the administration and all its departments were concentrated on retrenching working expenses in every possible direction. As a result of these efforts, the actual expenditure for the year showed a saving of Rs. 12·14 lakhs on the original expenditure estimates and Rs. 4·73 lakhs on the revised estimates. As compared with the actual expenditure of the previous year 1925-26, the expenditure for 1926-27 showed a reduction of Rs. 1·45 lakhs, in spite of additional expenditure of Rs. 3·36 lakhs incurred in 1926-27 on dredging the Pir Pau Channel and of Rs. 1·55 lakhs on dock police, water rates to the Municipality and other items over which the Port Trust have only a partial or no control.

The receipts under all heads amounted to Rs. 264 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 275 lakhs, the result of the year's working being a deficit of Rs. 11 lakhs under General Account which has been met from the Revenue Reserve Fund, and a surplus under Pilotage Account for transfer to the Vessels Replacement Fund. The increasing activities of the Kathiawar ports and the diversion of traffic thereto from Bombay and other Ports caused the Trustees, together with the Chambers of Commerce and other Associations, to make a representation to Government. The question has now been decided by the Government of India re-imposing the land Customs cordon at Viramgaum, and it is hoped that this will put a stop to the diversion of trade from this port.

The total tonnage of cargoes dealt with at the docks and bunders during the year was 5,593,000 tons against 6,460,000 tons in 1925-26.

A redeeming feature of the trade of the year under review was the record increase in the importations of petrol, which amounted to 10,017,000 gallons as against 7,444,000 gallons in 1925-26. The entire quantity which came from Burma was expeditiously discharged at the Pir Pao Pier and pumped into the installations at Sewri. The ferro-concrete jetty at this pier was replaced by a steel jetty at a cost of about Rs. 6 lakhs.

The average number of daily labourers fell from 2,506 in 1925-26 to 2,229 in 1926-27, the highest number employed on a single day being 3,734 against 4,157 in the previous year.

The fumigation of American cotton imported into India through this port continued throughout the year under review and owing to the disparity in prices ruling between the American and Indian varieties, the imports were on a considerably enhanced scale. 138,597 bales were landed and fumigated prior to delivery. In order to render the costs of fumigation cheaper for the trade, Government reduced their proportion of the fumigation charge by four annas a bale and the Trustees responded with a reduction of one anna per bale out of their share of four annas per bale from February 1927. The Trustees also waived the recovery of the special storage charge of 8 annas a bale during the monsoon months.

There was a decrease in the number of vessels occupying the dry docks, the number of vessels docked being 177 against 200 in 1925-26. The total tonnage decreased to 625,803 tons, being 88,170 tons less than the previous year. As a convenience to vessels undergoing repairs in the dry docks, the Trustees purchased a portable motor transformer in order to provide vessels with electric current from the shore mains at a suitably reduced voltage.

The Ballard Pier berth was used by 169 vessels as against 178 during 1925-26. Postal and passenger trains to and from the station connecting with the incoming and outgoing mail steamers were run regularly during the year, the number of special trains being 281 against 301 in the previous year.

The total tonnage dealt with at the bunders was 1,525,000 tons against 1,597,000 tons during 1925-26, the principal decrease being in chunam, firewood, timber, seeds and vegetables and fruits. There were increases, however, under petrol and kerosene oil.

In view of the depression in trade and the consequent effect on the Board's revenues, Capital expenditure during the year under review was kept down to an absolute minimum, in order to obviate any increase in debt charges. Expenditure on Capital Account amounted to Rs. 21·81 lakhs which is the lowest since 1904-05. A sum of Rs. 6·75 lakhs was expended on the construction of the new transit shed at No. 9 berth, Alexandra Dock, Rs. 4·40 lakhs on the deepening of the Alexandra Dock entrance channel and mail steamer berth, Rs. 4·21 lakhs on dredging plant, Rs. 1·27 lakhs on paving and metalling of wharves in Alexandra Dock and Rs. 77,000 on the construction of a new office for the Deputy Manager and Cash Department in Alexandra Dock. No new loan was raised by the Trustees during the year, the expenditure being financed from loan balances in hand.

KARACHI PORT TRUST

The total revenue of the Karachi Port Trust during the year amounted to Rs. 60 lakhs and the expenditure to about Rs. 5[illegible] lakhs. The imports landed at the ship wharves during the year totalled 600,800 tons against 507,500 tons during the previous year, due to larger imports of sugar and coal. The total shipments from the ship wharves were 580,000 tons against 676,000 tons the previous year. Cotton shipments decreased considerably due to damage to crops by rain and to a smaller area under cultivation.

Eight hundred and eighty steamers of all kinds entered the Port with a tonnage of 2,256,969 against 868 and 2,209,406 respectively in the previous year. Of the above 699 were of British Nationality. Of 181 foreign steamers, 52 were Italian, 42 German, 24 American, 16 Dutch, 13 Japanese, 13 Norwegian, 10 Swedish, 3 French, 2 Jugo-Slav, 2 Danish, 2 Finish, 1 Greek and 1 Belgian.

Thirteen pilgrim ships embarked 7,603 pilgrims for the Hedjaz during the year and 14 arrived with 12,805 pilgrims.

ADEN PORT TRUST

Although the value of trade decreased in comparison with 1925-26, there was an increase in the tonnage and number of merchant vessels using the port as a result of which the financial position of the Port continued to be satisfactory. The receipts were Rs. 2 lakhs more than in the previous year. The closing balance was Rs. 13·21 lakhs as against the opening balance of Rs. 13·04 lakhs.

Both imports and exports showed decreases, the former from Rs. 8 crores 98 lakhs to Rs. 8 crores 80½ lakhs and the latter from Rs. 7 crores 52½ lakhs to Rs. 6 crores 95 lakhs.

The number of vessels including country craft, but excluding Government vessels, that entered the harbour was 2,379 with an aggregate tonnage of 5,321,000 as compared with 2,344 with a tonnage of 4,391,000 during the last year. Eleven pilgrim ships entered the harbour on their way to and from the Haj against 4 in 1925-26.

WORKING OF THE RENT ACTS

Bombay.—The work of original inquiries held by the Deputy Rent Controller continued to be heavy. In most of the new cases both landlords and tenants requisitioned the help and advice of lawyers and civil engineers, and regular enquiries were made as in civil suits. There were many cases in which claims were preferred for repairs, improvements, alterations and additions. In all such cases the premises were inspected by the Deputy Rent Controller and evidence was recorded after such inspection.

The total number of prosecutions under section 7 of the Bombay Rent (War Restrictions No. 2) Act, 1918, instituted against landlords or their agents during the year was 1,505, resulting in 938 convictions, and fines amounting to Rs. 9,911. One hundred and six cases were withdrawn with the permission of the Magistrate, in 15 cases the accused were acquitted, and 446 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Poona.—Forty-nine suits under the Rent Act, including 23 pending from the previous year, came before the First Class Sub-Judge during the year, of which 42 were disposed of, 20 in favour of the landlords, 5 in favour of tenants, 10 compromised, 5 withdrawn and 2 dismissed for plaintiff's default.

Thana.—The Rent Act is applicable to the Thana Mahal only. Forty-seven cases were filed during the year and all were disposed of.

Bombay Suburban District.—One hundred and thirty-one applications were received for fixing standard rents of premises against 106 applications in the previous year. Of these applications, 33 did not come under the Rent Act, in 66 applications, after due enquiries, standard rents were fixed and certificates were granted while 32 applications were filed at the request of the applicants as the parties in these cases settled the matters amicably.

Karachi.—The Rent Controller passed orders fixing the standard rent of 1,604 tenements comprising about 418 separate

buildings. Twenty-two appeals were preferred to the Rent Committee out of which the Controller's decisions ere upheld in 15 cases and modified in 7 cases.

Aden.—The Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Acts have been in force in Aden from the date of passing by the Legislature, but a Rent Controller was for the first time appointed in 1922.

During the year the Rent Controller dealt with 774 applications and fixed the standard rent of 772 small premises.

One hundred and forty-seven suits were filed before the Court for ejectment out of which 126 were decreed, 13 were dismissed, 4 settled out of Court and 4 were pending.

CHAPTER X

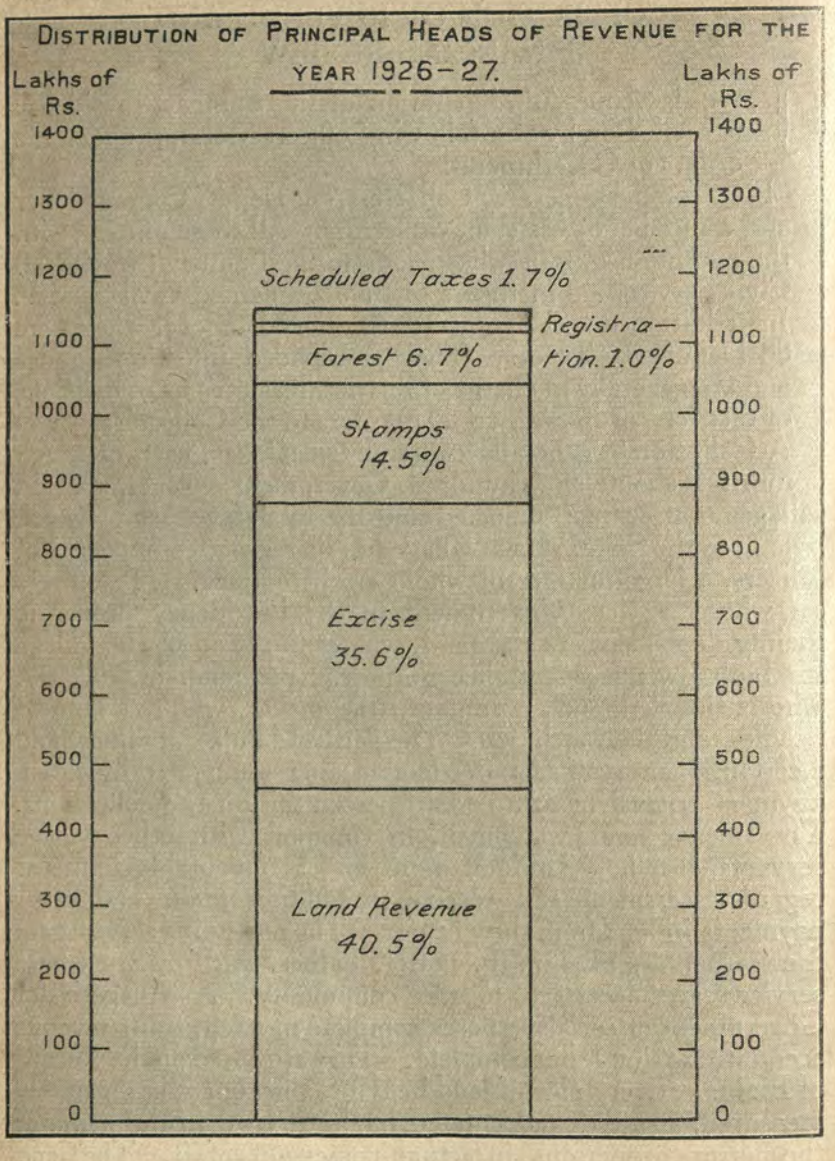
COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

THE Revenue Administration of the Bombay Presidency is carried on by the following officers working under the orders of Government :—

Five Commissioners, 27 Collectors, one Deputy Commissioner and a number of Assistant Collectors. All these officers, with the exception of four who belong to the Bombay (Provincial) Civil Service, are members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In addition to the officers mentioned above, there are 88 Deputy Collectors. They are divided into three grades and are generally in charge of district treasuries or of divisions of districts, or in Sind are Daftardars to the Collectors.

A Collectorate generally contains ten talukas, each of which comprises about one hundred Government villages, that is, villages that are not alienated and the total revenues of which belong to the State. Each village has its regular complement of officers, a large number of whom are hereditary. The officers on whose services Government in the Presidency proper is mainly dependent are the patil, who is the head of the village for both revenue and police purposes ; the talati or kulkarni, who is the clerk and accountant ; the mahar, who is a kind of beadle ; and the watchman. The patil and kulkarni either hold a certain quantity of rent-free land or are remunerated by a cash payment equivalent to a certain percentage on the collections. The mahar and watchman, in common with other village servants, also hold land on more or less favourable terms as regards assessment, and receive in addition grain and other payments in kind from the villagers. The remaining servants are the carpenter, blacksmith, potter, barber, and others whose services are necessary to the community. A village is for Government or social purposes complete in itself, so its revenue accounts are simple but complete. They are based on the Record of Rights. Every plot of land held by an occupant is separately measured, assessed and entered in the Record in the name of the person or persons in actual possession of it. The land revenue demand is based on this Record which is thus both a Record of Rights as well as of liability.

In charge of each taluka of a collectorate there is an officer termed MAMLATDAR (or MUKHTIARKAR in Sind).


DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1926-27.
Lakhs of Rs.
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Scheduled Taxes 1.7%
Registration. 1.0%
Forest 6.7%
Stamps 14.5%
Excise 35.6%
Land Revenue 40.5%

AN ASSISTANT OR DEPUTY COLLECTOR is placed in revenue charge of a division which contains on an average four talukas.

THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE is in charge of the whole district. Besides superintending the realisation of the land revenue, the duties of administering the collection of excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve upon the Collector as executive head of the district.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, of whom there are four for the Presidency proper and one in Sind, exercise a general superintendence and control over the revenue administration of the districts in their charge.

The annual BUDGET is presented to the Council during February. Previous to presentation it is examined by the Finance Committee of the Council. This committee, which consists at present of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members, the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers, and the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, is not statutory but is constituted annually by motion made in the Council. The elected members are elected by the Council immediately after motion is carried and its functions are advisory only.

The Budget is divided into voted and non-voted items. All items under the following heads are, under section 72-D (*3*) of the Government of India Act, non-voted :—

(i) contributions payable by the local Government to the Governor-General in Council ;

(ii) interest and sinking fund charges on loans ;

(iii) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law ;

(iv) Salaries and pensions payable to or to the dependants of —

(*a*) persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council ;

(*b*) judges of the High Court of the province ;

(*c*) the advocate-general ;

(*d*) persons appointed before the first day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, by the Governor-General in Council or by a local Government to services or posts classified by rules under this Act as superior services or posts ; and

(v) Sums payable to any person who is or has been in the civil service of the Crown in India under any order of the Secretary of State in Council, of the Governor-General in Council, or of a Governor, made upon an appeal made to him in pursuance of rules made under this Act.

For the purposes of this sub-section the expression " salaries and pensions " includes remuneration, allowances, gratuities, any contributions (whether by way of interest or otherwise) out of the revenues of India to any provident fund or family pension fund, and any other payments or emoluments payable to or on account of a person in respect of his office.

All other items are voted. But if the Governor certifies that any demand relating to a reserved subject, which has been either reduced or refused by vote of the Council, is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for that subject, the reduction or refusal of the Council becomes void.

By Rule 33 of the Rules of the Legislative Council a Committee on Public Accounts is constituted to deal with the audit and appropriation accounts of the province. The committee consists of 12 members of whom 8 are elected by the non-official members of the Council, and the remainder nominated. The Finance Member is *ex-officio* chairman.

THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27

The budget estimate for the year under the most important head of land revenue receipts stood at 605 lakhs including 72 lakhs under irrigation. The actuals, however, fell to about 467 lakhs land revenue *plus* 70 lakhs under irrigation, a total of 537 lakhs. As compared with the receipts of 541 lakhs land revenue *plus* 63 lakhs under irrigation (a total of 604 lakhs) in the year 1925-26, the revenue of the year under review showed a total decrease of 67 lakhs. The decrease was chiefly due to the failure of kharif crops in Gujarat and of rabi crops in the Deccan and Karnatak Districts and also to destruction caused by locusts in certain parts of Sind.

The increases in stamp duties sanctioned under the Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act of 1922 had only a life of four years. Government considered it expedient to ask for the continuance of the enhancements in the stamp duties in view of an estimated large deficit in the budget for 1926-27. They accordingly moved in the budget session of 1926 a Bill which sought to make those increases permanent. The Legislative Council, however, sanctioned the increased duties for one year only. This measure involved a revenue of Rs. 20 lakhs. Government also considered it necessary to reintroduce in the same session the measure for enhancing the Court-fees which had been rejected by the Council in the previous year. This time the Council recognised the necessity of strengthening the financial resources of Government and sanctioned the enhancement in

Court-fees for a period of two years. The increase was expected to bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 10 lakhs. The Legislative Council also passed in March 1926, as a permanent measure, the Bill introduced by Government for levying an additional duty of 2 per cent. on all transfers of immoveable property within the town and island of Bombay. This tax was expected to bring in about Rs. 11 lakhs per annum. The expectation has not, however, been fully realised.

The report of the Advisory Committee on the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme disclosed the fact that the high hopes formerly entertained of large profits from this enterprise were not to be realised. The Committee's report showed that if all work in connection with the scheme were closed down and no part of the reclamation completed, there would be a loss of Rs. 488 lakhs, but that if three out of the eight blocks were completed the loss on the scheme could be reduced to Rs. 300 lakhs. Government therefore decided to proceed with the completion of blocks Nos. 1, 2 and 8. In order to liquidate the loss of Rs. 300 lakhs, Government decided to provide annually from the general revenues a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs representing interest and sinking fund on a 60 years' basis.

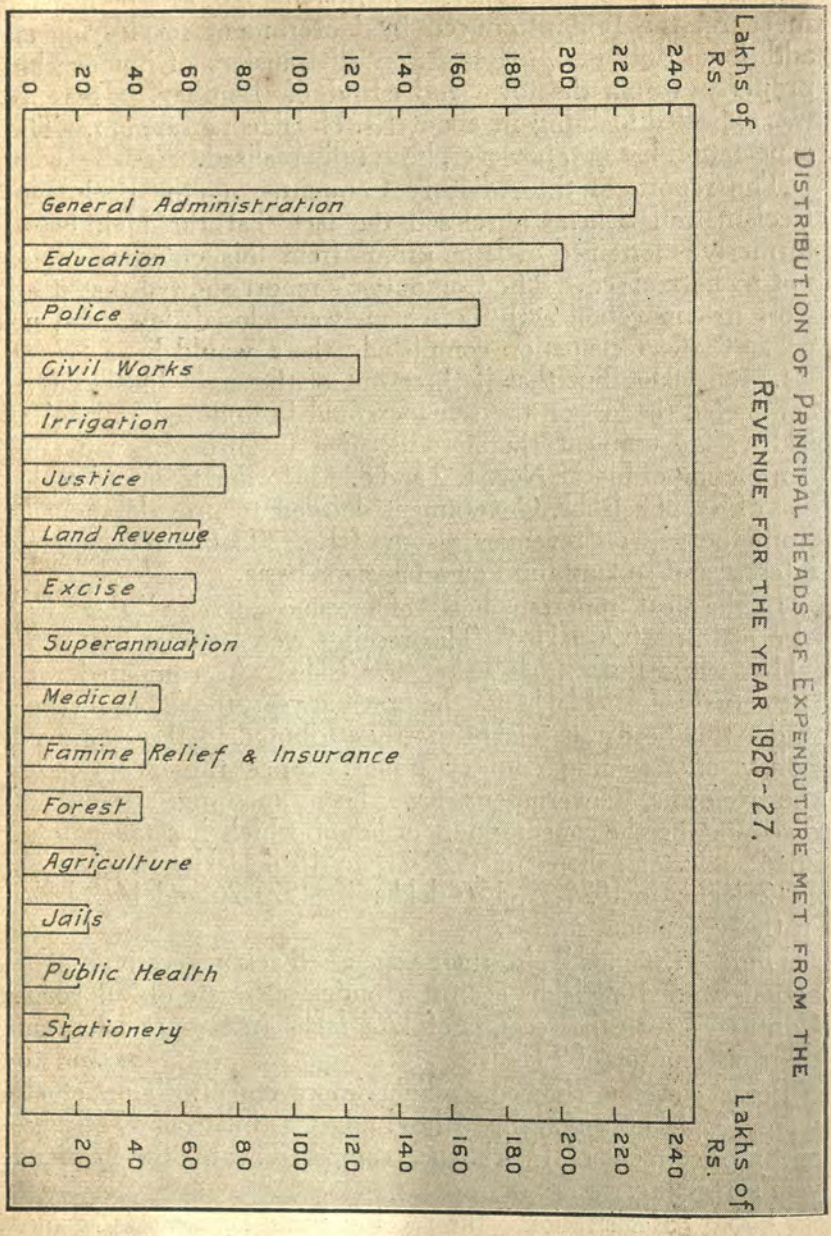
In the next important head of revenue " Excise " there was also a drop of 26 lakhs. The receipts were estimated at 435½ lakhs, while the actuals were 409½ lakhs. As compared with the actuals of 415½ lakhs for the previous year, the fall in revenue under this head was 6 lakhs, partly attributed to the continued policy of rationing country liquor. Since the inception of the Reforms, Government have been pursuing a policy of discouraging the consumption of liquor which has fallen from 28·4 lakhs of gallons in 1920-21 to 18·4 lakhs in 1923-24, 17·2 lakhs in 1924-25, 15·4 lakhs in 1925-26 and 14·2 lakhs in the year under review.

Under " Stamps " also there was a setback in receipts. The actuals were 167½ lakhs against a budget estimate of 201 lakhs. Compared with the receipts of 176½ lakhs in the previous year there was a drop of 9 lakhs.

Forest revenue showed a slight improvement. The actuals were 76½ lakhs as against the budget estimate of 74 lakhs, an improvement of 1¼ lakh as compared with the previous year's receipts.

Under " Registration " the receipts were 12 lakhs as against the budgetted figure of 13 lakhs, due to depression in trade.

Under the head " Scheduled Taxes " the operations of the Entertainments Duty Act of 1923 and the Bombay Totalizator


DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE MET FROM THE REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1926-27.
Lakhs of Rs.
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
200
220
240
General Administration
Education
Police
Civil Works
Irrigation
Justice
Land Revenue
Excise
Superannuation
Medical
Famine Relief & Insurance
Forest
Agriculture
Jails
Public Health
Stationery

Betting Tax Act of 1925 brought in a revenue of 19½ lakhs as against the budget estimate of 25 lakhs.

Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of about 10 lakhs in the expenditure under "Excise" which was mainly due to capital expenditure on Government distilleries, formerly met directly from the receipts, having been brought to account in the provincial accounts from the year under review. The expenditure under "Civil Works" was higher by 29 lakhs as compared with the previous year owing to the decision to meet all expenditure on building schemes below 5 lakhs from ordinary revenue instead of from borrowed money.

LOAN ACCOUNTS

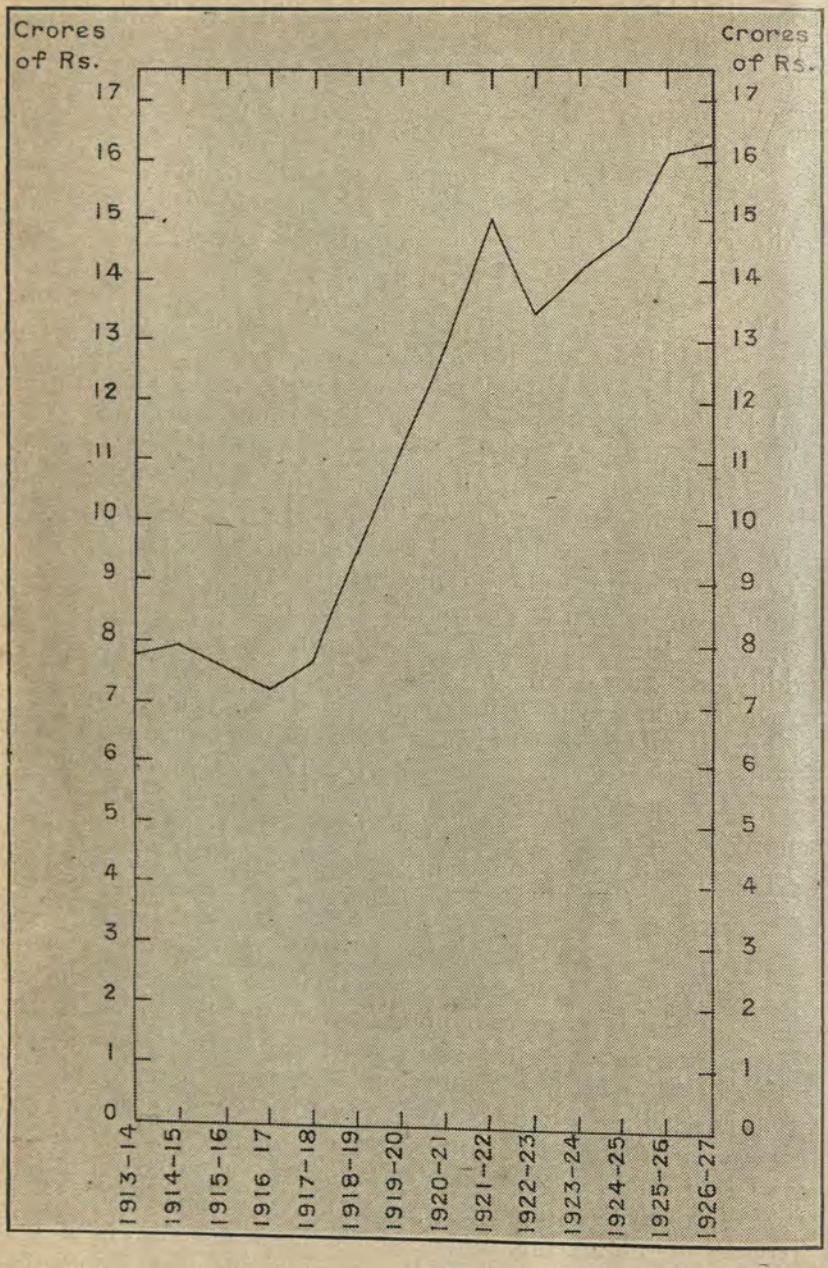
The total advance drawn from the Government of India during the year 1926-27 was Rs. 261·98 lakhs. Out of that amount Rs. 80 lakhs were meant for the Development Department and Rs. 70 lakhs were advanced to the Bombay Municipality. The share of the Lloyd Barrage Scheme was Rs. 23·13 lakhs but in addition to this amount and the savings from loans drawn for the Scheme during 1925-26, Rs. 122·64 lakhs were advanced to the scheme from the general balance of Government. For other irrigation works an amount of Rs. 26·01 lakhs was taken as an advance from the Government of India. An advance of Rs. 62·84 lakhs was taken for other unproductive purposes in addition to a total amount of Rs. 618 lakhs representing the previous year's loan savings and refunds of custom duty.

The standard rate of interest was 5 per cent. on all loans for productive purposes taken during 1926-27 which included loans for all the purposes mentioned above except "other unproductive purposes" and for advances by the Development Department for house building purposes to the public. For the latter a rate of 5¼ per cent. was charged.

NO REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX

The income tax revenue in the Bombay Presidency during the year under review amounted to only Rs. 321 lakhs due to the continuance of the general depression in trade and the unfavourable condition of the mill industry in spite of the abolition of the Cotton Excise Duty. This Government got nothing as its share of the income tax revenue for 1926-27, as the assessed income for that year fell below the assessed income of 1920-21 (a year of unexampled industrial prosperity) which is fixed as the datum line under which this Presidency is entitled to a small subvention when the assessed income in any year exceeds that datum line. The inequity of the present financial

TOTAL EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE



settlement to an industrial province like Bombay has now been recognised by the Government of India and the question of re-allocation of some of the sources of revenue between the Central and Provincial Governments is under consideration.

It is gratifying to note that as a result of very weighty representations of this Government and of the Legislative Council of this Presidency, the Government of India reduced, as a special case, the provincial contribution to the Central Government for 1926-27 by Rs. 28 lakhs (*i.e.*, by half).

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The principal items of revenue and expenditure for the year 1926-27 are given below :—

(Figures in thousands of rupees)

Head of account	Revenue	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	4,66,94	66,28
Excise	4,09,56	64,32
Stamps	1,67,57	1,75
Forests	76,56	44,98
Registration	12,03	6,74
Scheduled Taxes	19,55	20
Irrigation	49,24	95,51*
Interest	1,68,08	2,33,68
Sinking Funds	....	16,13
Administration of Justice ..	17,89	76,33
Jails and Convict Settlements..	5,65	24,91
Police	7,77	1,70,22
Education	10,85	2,01,13
Medical	5,46	51,57
Public Health	6,35	21,73
Agriculture	3,01	27,26
Industries	7	90
Miscellaneous Departments ..	2,05	4,59
Civil Works	16,38	1,25,75
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	19,68	63,87
Stationery and Printing ..	3,98	17,81
Miscellaneous	10,72	33,03
General Administration ..	..	2,27,71
Ports and Pilotage ..	..	22
Scientific Departments ..	..	60
Famine Relief and Insurance..	..	46,48

* This includes expenditure of 10,00 on account of interest on the capital expended on the Lloyd Barrage Scheme and of 7,12 on protective irrigation works, met out of the annual assignment of 63,60 for Famine Relief and Insurance.

LAND REVENUE

——	Demand	Collection	Suspensions	Remissions
	Lakhs	Lakhs	Lakhs	Lakhs
Northern Division	125·76	114·20	7·77	3·59
Central Division	200·78	173·53	19·78	7·43
Southern Divsion	120·18	101·05	13·83	5·23
Sind	112·52	111·60	·93	5·48
Bombay Suburban Division ..	2·65	2·00	....	....

PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE

The Public Works Revenue falls under the three heads: "Imperial Military," "Central" and "Provincial." The revenue under Provincial which consists of rents of buildings, rents of electric and water-supply and sanitary installations, ferry receipts, tolls on roads, sale of water, etc., amounted to about Rs. 16¼ lakhs as against a similar amount derived during the previous year.

The revenue under the two other heads amounted to about Rs. 1½ lakhs as against a similar amount derived during the previous year.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

PORT OF BOMBAY

The gross receipts credited to Customs at the Bombay Custom House excluding the tea and cotton cesses amounted to Rs. 12 crores 16 lakhs during the year under report as compared with Rs. 12 crores 72 lakhs during the previous year. Refunds and drawbacks granted during the year amounted to Rs. 24·18 lakhs. The total expenditure decreased from Rs. 18·15 lakhs to Rs. 17·76 lakhs.

Customs Offences.—The total number of cases adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act was 3,162 as against 2,752 in the preceding year. Out of the total number, 1,729 related to offences under the Merchandise Marks Act. Recoveries under fines and penalties in lieu of confiscation in cases offending the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act amounted to Rs. 18,170 and Rs. 260 respectively. In other cases penalties aggregating to Rs. 41,894 were imposed. The Preventive Department seized over 6 lbs. of cocaine during the year. The seizures of opium and other allied drugs numbered 40. The department also placed before the Magistracy eight cases of illicit importation of arms and ammunition and obtained

convictions in all of them. Five consignments were taken over on behalf of Government under section 32, Sea Customs Act. All the cases realised sums higher than that declared by importers in their bills of entry, and a profit amounting to Rs. 2,783 was made.

Land Customs.—The receipts at the Land Customs Stations were Rs. 9·49 lakhs during the year under report against Rs. 10·29 lakhs during the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 80,000 due mainly to a falling off in the imports of Railway materials, iron and steel structures fabricated, and dutiable kerosine oil via Castle-Rock. The deficit in these articles was somewhat made up by larger imports of Goa produce, such as cocoanuts, copra and betelnuts.

In regard to non-dutiable through traffic at Castle-Rock, the Up traffic showed a further increase this year due to heavy exports of manganese and other products from above-ghats places. The Down free traffic from Bombay and Coast ports to above-ghat destinations showed considerable reduction due to general trade depression.

SIND

The total gross receipts on account of Customs revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 584 lakhs as compared with Rs. 540 lakhs in the previous year. Refunds and drawbacks paid during the year amounted to Rs. 30·27 lakhs as against Rs. 34·52 lakhs in 1925-26. The expenditure slightly increased from Rs. 6·88 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 7·07 lakhs in the year under review.

The total number of offences dealt with under the Sea Customs Act was 829 during the year under review as against 851 in 1925-26. The most noteworthy of these cases was the one detected by the Appraising section relating to an attempt to import six dies engraved with the device of Government of India rupees ostensibly for the illegal coinage of rupees. The other important cases related to importations of obscene pictures, arms and ammunition, wireless apparatus and small quantities of dangerous drugs. The postal branch of the Appraising section was mostly responsible for the detection of imports of obscenities and of wireless apparatus. Eleven cases of illicit importations of arms and ammunition and 7 cases of dangerous drugs, in which the quantities involved were small, were detected by the Preventive Service.

During the year under review 1,187 consignments infringed the provisions of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act as against 1,175 in 1925-26.

SALT DEPARTMENT

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY PROPER

The salt with which the Bombay Presidency Salt Department has to deal may conveniently be classified as follows :—

(1) Baragra or Rann Salt made from brine wells on the edge of the Lesser Rann of Cutch in the salt works at Kharaghoda and Udu, six miles apart, and jointly named the Pritchard Salt Works. These are Government property and worked departmentally.

(2) Sea salt made within the Presidency. The factories at Dharasna and Chharwada at the Southern end of the Gujarat Coast near Bulsar are both Government property and worked departmentally. The other salt works, with three exceptions, are grouped within a radius of 30 miles of Bombay City. Those which are Government property are leased to private individuals for working ; the others are owned as well as worked privately.

(3) Imported salt, mostly from sea-salt works in Goa territory.

There was an increase of over 7 lakhs in the revenue of the Department during the year, the gross receipts being 153 lakhs. The total expenditure including refunds amounted to over 30 lakhs.

The production of salt at Kharaghoda was further restricted with a view to reduce the stock on hand and this with an unfavourable season combined to show a decrease of 3·62 lakhs maunds below that of the season of 1925-26.

The sales of Baragra salt during the year amounted to 25·06 lakhs of maunds compared with 23·56 lakhs during 1925-26 and 31 lakhs during 1924-25, during which year the sales were abnormal as a reaction from the preceding year when the rate of duty was double. The sales for 1926-27 approximate to the present normal issues of Baragra salt.

The quantity of Baragra salt in hand at Kharaghoda at the close of the manufacturing season was reduced from 63·13 lakhs of maunds on 30th June 1926 to 38·2 lakhs on the same date in 1927. Besides this stock, 18·31 lakhs of maunds were in stock at Kuda.

The produce of the sea salt-works was 97·32 lakhs of maunds during the seasonal year 1926-27 against 103·54 lakhs during the previous season. The total sales of sea salt during the financial year under review amounted to 95·78 lakhs of maunds against 87·57 lakhs during the previous year. The manufacturing

season closed with a balance of 56 lakhs of maunds on hand against 59·34 lakhs at the end of the previous season.

The total quantity of salt issued and imported for consumption in the Presidency proper is shown in the subjoined table :

Name of Province	Year	Quantity	Population	Average per head
		Maunds		Lbs.
Gujarat	1925-26	1,107,049	6,840,085	13·32
	1926-27	1,095,142		13·17
Konkan, Deccan and Southern Maratha Country	1925-26	2,588,666	15,479,188	13·76
	1926-27	2,484,699		13·21
Total ..	1925-26	3,695,715	22,319,273	13·63
	1926-27	3,579,841		13·20

The per capita issues for consumption in the Presidency proper have slightly decreased.

The number of fish-curing yards at which business was transacted during the year under report remained unchanged, *viz.*, 33. The total quantity of fish brought to be cured was 187,415 maunds against 226,351 maunds or a decrease of 38,936 maunds over and above the decrease of 79,684 maunds reported last year. The principal kinds of shoaling fish such as sardines, mackerel, " gol " and " shengala " were scarce during the last fishing season.

2,900 maunds of denatured salt, against 2,407 maunds during the previous year, were issued free of duty at the flat rate of 13 annas per maund from convenient custom houses, salt-work and fish-curing yards.

75,300 maunds against 64,965 maunds of salt was issued duty free for industrial purposes such as bleaching, dyeing, tanning and preparing heavy chemicals.

SIND

The following were the sources of salt supply during the year :—

(1) The Maurypur Salt Works.
(2) The Beacon Hill Salt Works (Private).
The Sind Salt and Chemical Works (Private).
(3) The Dilyar Salt Depot (Darwari Deposit salt).
(4) The Saran Salt Deposit.

Of the two private salt works the Beacon Hill Salt Works alone produced salt during the year. The Proprietors of the Sind Salt and Chemical Works, having failed to establish

an export trade, suspended the manufacture of salt and consequently lost their license from the 31st January 1927.

There was an increase of 60,000 maunds in output and a decrease of 1,700 maunds in issues. The increase of outturn was confined to sea-salt and was due to the licensing of more pans in order to build up a reserve stock and also to the removal of restrictions on the output of private Salt Works.

Imports of salt from the Punjab fell to 3,000 maunds, a reduction of 15,700 maunds. The decrease was due to the large stocks imported in the two preceding years. Imports by sea fell to 12,400 maunds, a reduction of 8,500 maunds. Last year's high figure was due to the accidental import of 16,000 maunds of German salt.

During the year under report 374,721 maunds of salt were manufactured at the Government Salt Works at Maurypur as against 329,282 maunds during the previous year. No excavation took place at the Saran salt deposit owing to the deposit being under water on account of the heavy rainfall. At the Darwari salt deposit 15,647 maunds of salt were excavated during the year as compared with 14,800 maunds during the preceding year. The output of salt at the Beacon Hill Salt Works amounted to 97,921 maunds as against 38,980 maunds during the previous year, while at the Sind Salt and Chemical Works the work was entirely suspended.

The consumption of salt in the Province including consignments imported by sea and Punjab rock salt amounted to 463,253 maunds as against 470,833 maunds in the preceding year.

The average consumption of salt in the Province worked out at 11·58 lbs. per head per annum as against 11·78 lbs. in the previous year.

The average wholesale and retail prices of salt in the Province worked out to Rs. 2-15-6 and Rs. 3-6-1 respectively, while those of Maurypur Salt Works Rs. 2-10-4 and Rs. 3-0-7 respectively as against Rs. 2-9-0 and Rs. 3-0-1 in 1925-26.

Eighty cases under the Salt Act were detected during the year as against fifty-nine in 1925-26.

The gross receipts from Excise duty and other charges on salt amounted to Rs. 5·35 lakhs and the expenditure (share debitable to Salt) was Rs. 1·86 lakhs. The expenditure works out to 34·7 per cent. of the gross receipts.

ADEN

The total revenue and expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 69,359 and Rs. 2,738 respectively as against Rs. 54,975 and Rs. 2,737 in the previous year.

The quantity of salt removed from the Arab salt pans at Shaikh Othman was 22,374 maunds and was retained, for consumption in British territory. Nearly 31,000 maunds were exported to the interior of Arabia as against 36,424 maunds in the previous year. The cost price received by the owners of salt pans amounted to Rs. 1,967 as against Rs. 2,178 in 1925-26.

The total quantity of salt exported by the Italian Salt Company was 116,300 tons as against 125,679 tons in 1925-26. A. & J. Lalljee's Salt Works exported 77,240 tons of salt, while Hajeebhoy Lalljee's Salt Works exported 7,725 tons as against 52,290 tons and 995 tons of salt respectively in the preceding year.

EXCISE

The consumption of country spirit has continued steadily to decline. During the year under report it was less by 103,000 proof gallons in the Presidency proper and by 17,000 proof gallons in Sind than in the preceding year. All districts except Thana, Kolaba and Sholapur contributed to this decrease. The total consumption also fell short of the fixed ration everywhere and that too in spite of a further reduction over the previous year's ration by 5 per cent. in the mofussil and 10 per cent. in Bombay City. Twenty-seven country spirit shops—24 in the Presidency proper and 3 in Sind—were closed during the year, but one was re-opened. Since the year 1919-20 the total reduction in consumption in the whole Presidency has fallen by 1,445,000 proof gallons or by over 50 per cent. In all 362 shops have been closed during the same period.

This diminishing consumption was necessarily reflected in diminishing revenues. The receipts from country spirit fell in the Presidency proper from Rs. 2,37,06,000 to Rs. 2,11,26,000 and in Sind from Rs. 22,23,000 to Rs. 21,86,000, that is, a total loss in revenue of Rs. 26,17,000 in one year. The aggregate reduction in the revenue from country spirit since the year 1919-20 amounts to Rs. 53,60,000.

The consumption of toddy also declined by 539,000 gallons in the districts of the Presidency proper except in Bombay, Thana, Poona and Sholapur, where it increased. The number of trees tapped during the year was less by 9,500, although the number of licenses granted increased by 687, the increase being solely due to the grant of domestic consumption licenses in the Panch Mahals District. In Sind, however, the consumption increased by about 1,500 gallons. The diminished consumption in the Presidency proper was to be attributed not to the spread of temperate habits, but to the general trade depression and in some

cases also to the unfavourable character of the season. The increase in Sind was due to the substitution of toddy for country liquor on account of the increasing price of the latter. The total decline in the consumption of toddy since the year 1919-20 has been 538,000 gallons in the Presidency proper; in Sind the consumption increased by 11,000 gallons.

As compared with the previous year, the receipts in the Presidency proper from the tree tax and vend and license fees fell from Rs. 49,07,000 to Rs. 46,63,000 and in Sind from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 5,000.

While there was a reduction in the total consumption of country spirit and toddy, the consumption of foreign liquor, including fermented liquor, wines and potable spirits rose during the year in the Presidency proper by 76,000 gallons from 774,000 to 850,000 gallons, although there was a fall in Sind by 37,000 gallons.

The increasing consumption of foreign liquor in the Presidency proper since 1924-25 is attributed to the increased prices of country spirit and, to a certain extent, to the growing predilection of the working classes for beer. Although the consumption of foreign liquor has been declining in Sind, the decline seems to be only temporary and to be occasioned by the general trade depression.

The revenue during the year in the Presidency proper from foreign liquor increased by Rs. 2,18,000, while that in Sind fell by Rs. 1,01,000. The revenue from this source increased in the Presidency proper from Rs. 9,72,000 in 1919-20 to Rs. 18,77,000 during the year under report and in Sind from Rs. 1,01,000 to Rs. 3,51,000 during the same period, that is, a total increase of Rs. 11,55,000.

The consumption of ganja and bhang during the year shows some decrease, the decrease under ganja being due mainly to the increase in its cost price in consequence of the increased duty. The sale of charas in Sind declined by nearly 1,000 seers. The total revenue realised in the whole Presidency was Rs. 27,57,000 as against Rs. 29,17,000 in the preceding year. The sales of opium in the Presidency proper further declined from 24,551 to 23,729 seers, while in Sind they rose slightly from 5,620 to 5,776 seers. Government have steadily pursued the policy of reducing the consumption of opium as of other intoxicating drugs, and the extent to which success has attended their efforts can be gathered from the fact that the sale of this drug has declined in the whole Presidency from about 53,000 seers in 1919-20 to 30,000 seers in 1926-27. The decrease in the

Presidency proper is unfortunately not due wholly to legitimate causes, as illicit opium is reported to find its way into the city of Bombay and to be sold at cheaper rates.

The revenue realised from the sale of opium in the Presidency proper amounted to Rs. 21,38,000 as against Rs. 21,86,000 in the previous year. In Sind the realisations were Rs. 4,24,000 as against Rs. 4,22,000. The total decline in the revenue from this source since 1919-20 in the whole Presidency is Rs. 6,57,000.

The total excise revenue was nearly 361 lakhs, a decline of over 28½ lakhs, and expenditure 25¼ lakhs, an increase of two lakhs.

The total number of offences against the Abkari law in the Presidency proper was 5,938, showing an increase of 724 over those of the previous year. The bulk of these offences related to liquor as was only to be expected in view of the substantial increase in the price of country spirit which makes illicit distillation and smuggling a profitable undertaking and well worth the risk incurred. The decrease in the number of cocaine cases from 429 to 138 was satisfactory, and for this result the Bombay City Police are to be congratulated on their successful raids on gambling dens where traffic in this drug used mostly to be carried on.

The resolution on the Excise Report for 1926-27 points out that Government are unable to view the results of the prohibition policy achieved up to date with unmixed satisfaction, inasmuch as they do not represent a radical change in the habits and inclinations of the population. Failing to obtain country spirit at a price which they can afford, people resort to cheap foreign liquor. Smuggling of country spirit was also on the increase, and its total prevention was difficult owing to the existence of Indian States on the borders of the British districts. A still worse counteracting factor was the enormous increase in the number of cases of illicit distillation, facilitated by the ease with which the bases of country spirit are obtainable. While such cases were few and far between when country spirit was cheap, they were now of frequent occurrence and illicit distillation was also carried on on a more extensive and organised scale than ever before. In some districts as, for example, East and West Khandesh where the drink habit is deeply ingrained in the people, the Excise policy had created problems of administration which Government could not but view with grave concern.

The Prohibition (Finance) Committee, to whose formation reference was made in last year's review, submitted its report to Government and the Committee's proposals were now under

consideration. They clearly indicated the financial difficulties independently of the several administrative obstacles, which have to be overcome before the goal of total prohibition comes into sight.

STAMPS

The revenue realised from the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps in the year 1926-27 both in the Presidency proper and Sind amounted to Rs. 170·40 lakhs as against Rs. 179·37 lakhs of which Rs. 89·76 lakhs were received under the Stamp Act and Rs. 80·64 lakhs under the Court Fees Act. The revenue realised in Bombay City was Rs. 30·55 lakhs out of the total collections of Rs. 72·26 lakhs under the Court Fees Act in the Presidency proper. The decrease of nearly Rs. 8 lakhs in revenue from the sale of General (non-judicial) stamps was due to trade depression.

Out of the revenue of Rs. 2,43,200 derived from duties and penalties levied on insufficiently stamped or unstamped instruments, Rs. 1,70,000 were received in Bombay City alone.

Five prosecutions under the Stamp Act were instituted. Two in Ahmedabad and one each in the districts of Bijapur, Nasik and Larkana. Three cases resulted in convictions and fines of Rs. 120 were recovered.

TAXES ON INCOME

"There was no improvement in trade and industry during the year 1925-26 on the profits of which assessments for the year under report were levied," says the Commissioner of Income Tax, "and it has been reported to have been worse than even the year which preceded it. It was the fifth of a series of bad years each worse than the one preceding it and everyone here says that this Presidency never before had the misfortune of having such a long period of uniform trade depression.

"The acute depression in the premier industry of the Presidency reacted upon its trade as a whole and the continued fall in prices made business unprofitable except for stray instances here and there. The only encouraging feature of the year was a welcome revival of motor-car business after four bad years of heavy losses. The cotton crop in Gujarat was good and this meant better business for the ginning and pressing factories that side. The rest of the presidency, however, on account of a poor crop did not fare as well. Exporters of cotton had a fairly good time and maintained their earnings but cloth merchants, commission agents and traders in pearls and luxury

trades in general either showed losses or smaller profits than the preceding year."

The net total collection on account of income-tax amounted to Rs. 2 crores 49·80 lakhs as against Rs. 2 crores 63·93 lakhs for the preceding year. The decrease of Rs. 14·13 lakhs was due to the fact that the past arrears at the beginning of the year were less by Rs. 5·80 lakhs than the corresponding figure for the preceding year and the arrears at the end of the year were in excess by Rs. 12·35 lakhs over the corresponding figure for the preceding year. Of the total collections 79·33 lakhs were collected from companies, registered firms and holders of Government of India and other securities, and 169·46 lakhs from individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families, the total income on which the tax was assessed being 10 crores 87 lakhs and 37 crores 57 lakhs respectively. The number of individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families paying income-tax was 67,515. The largest number is to be found in the class whose incomes range from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,499 per year, the total being 19,005 and the tax collected amounting to over Rs. 8·70 lakhs. The next highest class is between Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 4,999, the figure being 11,186 and the tax collected amounting to Rs. 11·58 lakhs.

Persons with incomes of Rs. 50,000 and over numbered 708 paying 36·73 lakhs income-tax on an assessed income of Rs. 4 crores 4·27 lakhs.

The net super-tax collections for the year amounted to Rs. 72·38 lakhs as against Rs. 86·14 lakhs for the year 1925-26. The difference of Rs. 13·76 lakhs was due to a decrease in the arrears at the beginning of the year by Rs. 5·20 lakhs, an increase in the arrears at the end of the year by Rs. 8·46 lakhs and an increase in the refunds granted by Rs. 3·97 lakhs compared with the corresponding figures for the preceding year.

There were five private individuals in the Bombay Presidency whose assessable incomes to super-tax amounted to more than 5 lakhs per year and they paid Rs. 13·79 lakhs in super-tax. The number of companies paying super-tax on 5 lakhs and over was 34, the amount of tax paid by them being 25·64 lakhs.

The Bombay Presidency therefore raised in super-tax and income-tax Rs. 3 crores 22 lakhs, a decrease of 28 lakhs over the previous year.

Progress made in educating Assessees.—"Taking the Presidency as a whole, about 84 per cent. of the assessees filed their returns of income," says the Commissioner of Income Tax. "This is a slight improvement over the previous year in

which this percentage stood at 81. Bombay City, however, showed no improvement and the percentage for it was 73 as against 75 for 1925-26. Excluding Bombay City, the percentage for the rest of the Presidency was 91. This might be regarded as satisfactory. As regards Bombay City, 3,437 new assessees were brought on the list during 1926-27 and some of them did not care to fill in the returns of income. This accounts partly for the lower percentage mentioned above. Also, in the case of business income, there is much more fluctuation from year to year in Bombay than elsewhere and people who were exempted or assessed at a low figure one year, still do not hesitate to take their chance of a low assessment by the income-tax officer in the following year when profit is greater, by not putting in the return of income. Many, of course, burn their fingers thereby but still some persist in adopting these tactics."

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

FOR educational purposes each district, besides the City of Bombay, is provided with a Deputy Inspector with assistants, and there are five Inspectors above them, one for each of the four Educational divisions into which the Presidency proper is now divided and one for the province of Sind. Besides these there are Special Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors for certain subjects. The control of the whole department is vested in the Director of Public Instruction who has under him a Deputy Director, a senior member of the Indian Educational Service.

The principal educational institution in the Presidency is the **University of Bombay,** which alone has the power of conferring degrees recognised as a special qualification for appointments and promotions to posts in Government service. The University also provides facilities for post-graduate teaching.

Below the University are the several affiliated **Colleges** which prepare students for the University examinations. At present there are 17 such colleges teaching the Arts courses, and six providing instruction in professional courses.

The Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, opened in 1920, provides facilities for post-graduate research work in Science in addition to the ordinary degree courses in Science.

Below the Colleges come the **High Schools,** usually at least one, either Government or aided, at the headquarter town of each district. These prepare students for the School Leaving Examination held by the Examination Board which has replaced both the University Matriculation and the Departmental School Final Examination, the latter of which qualifies for admission into the lower branches of the public service.

Side by side with the High Schools there are the **Middle Schools** which teach the first few standards only of the secondary school course of seven standards. There are also in some places separate high and middle schools for girls.

Below the secondary schools are a large number of **Primary Schools** both for boys and girls in which instruction is given in the vernacular to the vast mass of the people.

There are also institutions for the training of teachers for both secondary and primary schools maintained by Government,

viz., the Secondary Training College, Bombay, and the Vernacular Training Colleges for men and women at Ahmedabad, Poona, Dhulia (for men only), Dharwar and Hyderabad. A certain number of district training schools have also been opened.

For technical and industrial education, there are the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Reay Art Workshops attached to it, the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which is now recognised as the central technological institution, for the Presidency, the Workshop classes of the College of Engineering, Poona, the School of Engineering attached to the D. J. Sind College at Karachi and a number of technical and industrial schools, notably the Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the Parekh School of Art, Surat, the Sir D. M. Petit Industrial School, Ahmednagar, the School of Industry at Ratnagiri and the V. J. Technical Institute, Sukkur.

For the proper selection of text-books for use in secondary and primary schools there are six special committees ; one, known as the Provincial School Book Committee, for the consideration of books for use in secondary schools, and five Vernacular School Book Committees for the consideration of books in Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese, Sindhi and Urdu.

A Committee of Direction for Technical Education has also been constituted during the decade.

EDUCATION

[The figures in the summary relate to institutions in the British Districts only.]

Bombay Presidency.—The total number of recognised and unrecognised educational institutions increased by 479 to 16,211 and the number of pupils in them by 74,614 to 1,148,714.

Out of a total of 26,731 towns and villages 10,244 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 12·1 square miles. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the total male population was 9·12 as against 8·56 in the preceding year, while that of female scholars under instruction to the female population was 2·43 as against 2·25.

Hindu pupils in recognised institutions numbered 867,726, Muhammadans 187,919, Indian Christians 32,034, Parsis 17,641, Europeans and Anglo-Indians 4,819. Among the rest are included 925 Sikhs and 14 Budhists.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure on Public Instruction rose by over Rs. 50 lakhs to about Rs. 381½ lakhs. Government

funds contributing 51·9 per cent.; Board funds 18·7 per cent.; Fees 17·4 per cent. and Other sources 12·0 per cent. Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 198½ lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction and repairs. Expenditure on buildings, furniture and apparatus in recognised institutions amounted to nearly Rs. 15 lakhs.

University.—The number of candidates for the School Leaving Examination for the purposes of Matriculation increased by 1,411 to 7,483, of whom 3,088 or 41·3 per cent. passed. There were 687 successful candidates out of 1,729 examined for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, the percentage of passes being 39·7. The number of successful candidates at the B.A. Examination held in October 1926, and April 1927, was 904 as against 598 in the preceding year. Of the successful candidates 240 obtained Honours—23 in class I and 217 in class II. At the B.Sc. Examination 186 candidates out of 329 examined were successful. Of the 71 candidates for the M.A. Examination 46 passed, 5 in class I and 20 in class II. In examinations for Professional degrees, excluding the medical examinations, there were 480 successful candidates. The expenditure of the University as distinct from the individual colleges, and from the School of Economics and Sociology maintained by the University itself, was about Rs. 6¾ lakhs.

Arts Colleges.—The total number of students in the 15 Arts Colleges (including the Royal Institute of Science which has now been separately affiliated by the University, and the University School of Economics and Sociology) decreased by 401 to 7,027, of whom 382 were women as against 398 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on all the Arts Colleges (excluding the University School) was Rs. 19·18 lakhs.

Professional Colleges.—The number of students in the Government Law College, Bombay, rose by 28 to 498 and that in the Poona Law College by 29 to 467. The Sind Collegiate Board's Law College, Karachi, which was affiliated during the year, had 59 students on the rolls. The number of students receiving instruction in commerce rose by 16 to 269 and the number of those receiving instruction in Engineering by 5 to 327.

Education in Art.—The number of students at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, rose by 53 to 541, and that at the Ahmedabad School of Drawing and Design by 1 to 34. The Reay Art Workshops had 175 students on the rolls as against 148 in the preceding year.

Technical and Industrial Education.—Technical and Industrial Schools increased by 2 to 32, and the number of pupils in them by 628 to 2,833. The expenditure on these institutions increased by Rs. 4,776 to Rs. 5,75,590.

Secondary Schools.—The total number of Secondary Schools increased by 33 to 529 and the number of pupils in them by 6,725 to 100,294. The following table gives separate figures for High and Middle Schools :—

	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils
High Schools for Boys ..	187	68,040
,, ,, for Girls ..	48	9,683
Middle Schools for Boys ..	255	19,485
,, ,, for Girls ..	39	3,086
Total ..	529	100,294

The total expenditure of all Secondary Schools was about Rs. 74½ lakhs, a rise of over 4 lakhs.

Primary Schools.—Primary schools for Boys increased by 350 to 12,300 and the number of pupils in them by 61,286 to 851,483. The number of girls under instruction in Primary schools was 198,604, an increase of 16,518.

The number of District Local Board and Municipal Primary schools for Boys and Girls increased by 308 to 11,174 and the number of pupils in them by 67,212 to 843,135, the corresponding increases for the preceding year being 636 and 57,728. Aided schools increased by 111 to 2,528 and the pupils in them by 5,351 to 131,252. Unaided schools, however, decreased by 27 to 99 and the pupils in them by 292 to 5,507. The number of schools for Adults increased by 11 to 202 but the number of pupils in them decreased by 552 to 7,178. The total expenditure on Primary education rose by Rs. 17½ lakhs to Rs. 198½ lakhs. Of this—

	Rs.
Government funds contributed ..	121·6 lakhs.
District Local Board funds ..	14·7 lakhs.
Municipal funds	41·9 lakhs.
Fees	5·0 lakhs.
And other sources	15·4 lakhs.

Training Institutions.—There were 15 Training Institutions for Men with 999 pupils, and 18 for Women with 666 pupils. Of these, 18 with 1,189 pupils were under public management and 15 with 476 pupils were under private management.

Muhammadans.—The total number of Muhammadans under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 14,376 to 187,919, of whom 26,562 were in girls' schools. The number of Muhammadan pupils in Arts Colleges decreased by 42 to 318, while that in Professional Colleges increased by 25 to 132. In Secondary schools the number increased by 647 to 8,191, in Primary schools by 15,353 to 175,408, while in Special schools it decreased by 1,607 to 3,870.

Intermediate and Backward Hindus.—The following table gives the number of pupils under instruction for the last two years :—

	1926-27	1925-26
Intermediate—		
Marathas	138,748	120,513
Cultivating classes (kunbis, kolis, etc.)	161,877	153,908
Artisans	78,108	69,350
Lingayats	72,142	67,614
Total ..	450,875	411,385
Backward—		
Depressed classes ..	61,599	56,414
Jungle, Criminal and Hill Tribes.	25,669	24,877
Others	34,287	30,859
Total ..	121,555	112,150

Reformatory Schools.—The following three Reformatory Schools are under the control of the Educational Department :—

	Number of pupils
Reformatory School, Yeravda ..	173
David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Bombay	345
Salvation Army Willingdon Boys' Home, Bombay	74
Total ..	592

The Juvenile Jail School, Dharwar, which is maintained by the Jail Department, had 275 pupils, an increase of 46.

Aden.—There were in all 45 schools in the Settlement of Aden attended by 2,714 scholars.

Secondary Schools.—Out of Secondary Schools for males Government continued to maintain two and aid four, the remaining two being unaided schools. The aided schools received Rs. 6,844 as grant-in-aid. Three schools for females are maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission—two at Crater and one at Steamer Point. The total expenditure on Secondary Schools for males and females amounted to Rs. 48,000.

Primary Schools.—Three Primary Schools were maintained by Government for males, one at each locality of the Aden Settlement. Besides there were 10 aided and 8 unaided schools scattered all over the Aden Settlement. The number of pupils attending was 1,564. The aided schools received Rs. 5,600 as grant-in-aid and for purchase of text-books, etc. The number of Primary Schools for females, including 6 indigenous ones, was 8 which was attended by 275 pupils. The Arabic Primary Girls' School at Crater was maintained by the Danish Mission and the Gujarati Community maintained the Girls' Gujarati Primary School, Crater. The total expenditure on these institutions was Rs. 31,000.

There were 177 scholars attending the two night schools at Crater and Sheikh Othman. The one at Tawahi was closed in October 1926. The Industrial School at Crater, which has only a carpentry class, was attended by 45 pupils. With the exception of two Jews all the apprentices were Muhammadans.

The aggregate expenditure on education in Aden amounted to Rs. 1·19 lakhs.

YERAVDA REFORMATORY

There were 169 boys in the Reformatory School, Yeravda, at the end of 1926, their ages ranging from 10 to 17 years. Forty-two were Muhammadans, 8 Brahmins, 22 Depressed classes, 8 Christians, 1 Anglo-Indian, 5 Lingayats and 83 other Hindus.

"The general behaviour of the juveniles was satisfactory on the whole," says the Superintendent of the Reformatory School, "though there was some increase in the number of offences as compared with that of the previous year. One boy committed two offences while another was responsible for three offences—the latter being a really bad boy. The total number of offences was 14 involving in all 20 boys. One boy—a new comer—escaped from the play ground while the boys were playing cricket, but he was immediately pursued and soon brought back to the Reformatory. Punishment inflicted for these offences was either flogging or penal diet. No boy was punished to grind corn for any offence during the year."

The health of the inmates continued to be good on the whole. The total number of in-patients in the school hospital was 63 as against 66 of last year, while the daily average number of out-door patients, treated for minor ailments such as wounds from tools or accidents in games, was 31·95 as against 42·72 in the previous year. An epidemic of influenza (mild type) broke out during September, when 91 boys suffered from the attack, 10 shewing the symptoms of bronchitis and one boy having broncho-pneumonia.

Thirty-six boys were discharged during the year—19 in the first half and 17 in the second half of the year. The first half-yearly reports on these 19 boys show that 2 worked as carpenters, 1 as smith, 1 as weaver, 1 as goldsmith, 2 as servants and 5 with relatives, while there was no trace of 7 boys.

The total number of boys discharged during the past three years (1923-25) was 136. Of these 63 are occupied in trade and agriculture, 12 are with parents or relatives, 13 are reconvicted, 35 are untraceable, 3 have died and 1 was re-admitted into reformatory; the remaining 9 had either escaped and remained untraced, or been released on appeal or transferred to other Reformatories.

Six trades were taught in the school, where 29 boys were trained in carpentry, 14 in smithy, 18 in painting, 16 in book-binding, 24 in tailoring and 68 in gardening and agriculture.

Primary education was imparted in the school up to the fifth standard in Marathi, Gujrati and Urdu. Regular moral instruction was given in the school room once a week by class teachers.

The gross maintenance charges increased from Rs. 44,753 to Rs. 46,471 due partly to the rise in the number of boys and partly to the increase in the pay of the establishment, but the net average cost per boy per annum decreased from Rs. 299-11-3 to Rs. 280-14-10. The earnings of the school were Rs. 2,787.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

In discussing the Vernacular Literature of the Bombay Presidency for 1926-27, Mr. H. V. Hampton, I.E.S., Principal, Karnatak College, Dharwar, remarks:—

"The total number of books submitted for review was almost the same as in 1925-26, but there was no improvement in quality. The number of really good books was distressingly small and very few writers of promise made their first appearance in print. In last year's Report Professor Wodehouse drew attention to the "slack con itions prevailing in the

Indian book-buying and publishing worlds." In spite of the spread of education there appears to be a very small reading public and, consequently, there is hardly any room for enterprising publishers. In nine cases out of ten, books are published privately or printed by a firm which has taken care before going to press to insure itself against loss. Some authors, in their prefaces, candidly admit the difficulties that have to be overcome before a book can be put on the market and others give the names of patrons who have guaranteed the printers against financial loss. Considering the very limited number of book-buyers it is hardly surprising that publication is not a paying proposition and that a literary career is anything but attractive. On the other hand, it is equally surprising that, in face of these difficulties, so many thoroughly worthless books find their way into print. It appears that hundreds of books are published annually which must spell financial loss for some one (presumably not the printer), for it is inconceivable that these books can have any sale worth mentioning. Once the publishing trade is firmly established the number of utterly worthless books issued annually is bound to become almost negligible. Another unfortunate result of the lack of publishing firms is the cheap and shoddy way in which books, sometimes costing Rs. 2 or 3, are issued. The binding and paper are usually of very inferior quality, the printing is bad and the proof correction worse and, as often as not, illustrations are poorly reproduced. Several reviewers have complained of the undue proportion of misprints and pointed out the harm caused by this slovenly habit, particularly in the case of books written specially for children. No one of any literary taste wishes to read, much less to buy, a book of unattractive format in which misprints on almost every page are an eyesore. The truth is that little or nothing about the real technique of publishing seems to be known or, if it is known, it is certainly not practised. Until the publisher takes the place of the mere printer it is impossible to expect skilful proof-reading, without which publication is hardly worth while. Lastly, it is essential to point out that several books of an academic or scholarly nature are published without any index—a want which seriously detracts from the usefulness of books which in themselves may be indispensable to students, scholars or serious readers. These remarks are not made merely for the sake of fault-finding but solely with a view to pointing out the difficulties with which authors and readers have to contend. Everyone who is interested in the future of India hopes for an

early florescence of its vernacular literature and there seems to be no reason why the Bombay Presidency should not lead the way in a movement which will have an immense influence on the future of this country. In all probability there is plenty of material to draw on and, perhaps, even the necessary money is available to bring about the desired renaissance. It is the duty of the public at large and, especially, of the leaders of thought and culture to join hands and introduce an atmosphere in which vernacular literature will thrive and develop, until it holds a pre-eminent position in the country as a cultural and socialising agency.

" It appears that in Marathi and Gujarati periodical literature tends to thrive rather than to decline. The leading magazines have a wide circulation and attract writers of distinction. The monthly (or quarterly) fare which the best of them provide shows that there is plenty of literary talent to draw upon. If only the same high standard characterised the books published in these languages the writing of the annual 'Note on the Vernacular Literature of the Presidency' would be a more enviable task."

The total number of publications registered during the year was 4,182 as against 3,495 in the previous year, an increase of 687. Of the 2,588 books published 683 were in Gujarati, 659 in Marathi, 320 in Sindhi, 237 in English, 180 in Urdu, 80 in Kanarese, 67 in classical languages, 52 in Hindi and 21 in other dialects; while 289 books were in more than one language. " Miscellaneous " works accounted for a little less than half of the total number of publications, i.e., 2,025. Then came works of " Poetry " with 544 books, followed by " Religion " with 485. The total number of books submitted for review was 158. In this Gujarati had a slight numerical advantage over Marathi and Kanarese was very inadequately represented. Fiction, as usual, headed the list, although the number of novels reviewed was 9 less than last year. Poetical and dramatic works dropped from 20 to 17 and from 11 to 10 respectively. It is significant that the largest increases are in Education and Science.

In addition to books there were 1,594 issues of periodicals as distinct from newspapers.

NEWSPAPERS

At the end of the year 1926 there were in all 258 newspapers dealing with current political topics as against 255 newspapers in the previous year. Eighty-three newspapers were started during the year under report, and two already existing journals

were added to the list of newspapers scrutinised for the weekly report on Newspapers; but 76 publications having ceased to exist and 6 journals having been removed from the list of newspapers read for the weekly report, there was a net increase of only 3 publications. Of these 258 newspapers, 81 were published in the City of Bombay; 39 in the Northern Division; 47 in the Central Division; 32 in the Southern Division; 49 in Sind; and 10 in the Indian States. Ninety-one or about 35 per cent. were in the hands of Brahmins; 91 were conducted by other Hindus; 17 by Jains; 13 by Parsis; 36 by Muhammadans; and 10 by Christians. Six per cent. were published in English; 31 per cent. in Marathi; 24 per cent. in Gujarati; 3 per cent. in Hindi; 5 per cent. in Kanarese; 2 per cent. in Urdu; 15 per cent. in Sindhi; ⅓ per cent. in Persian; ⅓ per cent. in Arabic; and the remaining 13 per cent. were bi-lingual or tri-lingual newspapers.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY

The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society had 503 resident and 165 non-resident members at the close of the year 1926. The Society suffered an unexpected and severe loss by the death of its President, Sir Lallubhai Shah, who had held the office for the last three years with very great advantage to the deliberations of its Managing Committee and its public and scholastic interests. The death of Mr. Vishvanath Kashinath Rajvade has deprived the Society of one of its Fellows and historical and linguistic research of an erudite and indefatigable worker in the fields of Maratha history and grammar and Sanskrit philology. Another loss, by retirement from India, was that of Principal Covernton.

The issues of books and periodicals during the year amounted to 68,000, of which 16,600 were new books, 25,100 periodicals and 26,300 old books. The largest issue, about 22,000 was under fiction, while biography stood second (2,900), voyages, travels, etc., third (2,800) and miscellaneous fourth (1,950). During the year 1,546 volumes were added to the Library, of which 1,274 were purchased and 272 were presented.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUMS, BOMBAY

The Museum was open to the public for 313 days during the year and the number of visitors was 971,000 against 951,000 in the previous year. A large number of specimens of pottery, ivory, bone and mother-of-pearl, silver and gold enamel, textiles and Persian embroidery were added to the Industrial section. A specimen of plaster cast of the Lion-Capital

first discovered at Mathura by the late Dr. Bhagwanlal Indraji in 1869 was purchased from the authorities at the British Museum, London. A new collection of specimens of Agricultural interest was started.

PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA

A census of visitors taken as usual for a week during the year under review showed a very considerable increase to over 1,900 a day. Special facilities were afforded to the Anthropological and the Historical Research Societies, students, scholars and other bodies. The Board of Trustees held eleven meetings during the year.

Further progress in the classification and labelling of the exhibits in English, Marathi and Gujarati was made. Additional casts, models, photographs and diagrams were used for illustrating some of the exhibits. In addition to the guide books on sale for the Buddhistic gallery, the Arabic and Persian inscriptions, the Western pictures and the pamphlet on the snakes of Bombay and Salsette, an illustrated guide book on the Brahmanical gallery is being printed.

A very notable feature of the activities of the Museum was that a scheme for the use of the Museum by students for nature study, was successfully brought into operation on a systematic basis. The Natural History Section through their Guide Lecturer have been conducting regular courses of nature study for students of the various schools in Bombay. The Schools have co-operated excellently with the Section authorities to the great benefit of their students, while the students themselves have attended these demonstrations with great interest and enthusiasm.

A large number of exhibits and books was added either by purchase or as gifts.

In the Archæological Section twenty sculptures received from Tyabpur through the Government of Bombay and three Jain sculptures presented by Major A. S. Meek, formed a representative collection of sculptures from Gujarat. Three pieces of Assyrian antiquities received from Mr. G. Hussain of Surat, an inscribed Babylonian brick presented by Sir Lawless Hepper and an Arabic talismanic cup presented by the daughters of the late Jilubai Jehangirji Hormusji Chinoy through the good offices of Dr. J. J. Modi, made an interesting addition to the Perso-Semitic sub-section.

Six different lots of treasure trove coins found in the Presidency, about 6,000 coins of the Sultans of Gujarat received

from the Municipal Commissioner, Bombay, and a large collection of coins offered by Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim, were examined and reported upon. Classified lists of coins were prepared as a preliminary step to arranging the Museum coin cabinet. Six hundred and twenty coins were acquired either as gifts or by purchase.

Considerable improvements were made in the arrangement and classifying of the Art Section. Among the most notable of these was the display of the fine and unique copies of the Ajanta cave paintings by Syed Ahmed. These were given on loan by Mr. A. Hydari. The articles of special note added by purchase were a pair of ear-rings worn by Bokhara ladies, a copy of Ajanta painting by Mr. M. R. Chapalkar, three pictures of Akbar and an illuminated Persian Manuscript, two pictures of the Bengal School—" The Birth of the Ganges " and " The Pilgrim Beggars " and four pictures from the Bombay Art Society Exhibition—" A Wayside Camp," " Copy from Ajanta Caves," " After Fishing " and " A Woody Scene". An ivory image of Buddha was presented by Mr. J. N. D. Tata.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Mr. S. H. Prater, the Curator, was deputed to the United States of America for the purpose of studying methods of Museum exhibition and technique and also acquainting himself with the principles and methods of educational work that is being done by the Museums for the schools. On his return journey to India he visited the Natural History Museums at Paris, Brussells, Berlin, Frankfort, Munich and Vienna. The recommendations made by the Curator have been adopted by the Section in the work which the Museum is now carrying out for the Schools in Bombay. Thanks to the generous donation received from the Trustees of the Sir David Sassoon Trust Fund, a start was made in November 1926 when Mr. Salim Ali was appointed Guide Lecturer and with the co-operation of the Educational Authorities commenced his lectures to pupils from the local schools, including boys of the Victoria Jubilee School for the Blind.

The work on the preparation of a series of charts illustrating Indian bird life for the use of schools throughout the country has made considerable progress. Pamphlets on the birds, butterflies, mammals and fishes of Bombay and Salsette are also in the course of preparation.

VICTORIA MUSEUM, KARACHI

The Museum continues to grow in popularity and the number of visitors during the year was over 300,000. The number of female visitors is also increasing, the total being 96,500 as against 89,500 in the previous year. The ladies, both literate and illiterate, are taking advantage of the education afforded by the interesting exhibits in the Museum. Teachers and students, both male and female, from various Training Colleges and Schools also visited the Museum in large numbers, to study the collections chiefly in the Natural History Section and every facility is afforded them.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

THE grant for the year was Rs. 1,35,000 against Rs. 1,18,600 for the previous year. Out of the total allotment, Rs. 29,000 were placed at the disposal of the Archæological Superintendent for execution of works departmentally and Rs. 1,06,000 were assigned to the Bombay Public Works Department for repairs undertaken through that agency. In addition to the Central Government allotment, the Bombay Government sanctioned Rs. 5,940 and Rs. 3,471 respectively for special repairs to the Shanwar Wada in the Poona City and for the erection of a *chhatri* over the Samadhi of Sri Shivaji at Raigarh in the Kolaba District. The Viramgam Municipality and the Sunni Muslim Wakf Committee of Ahmedabad also contributed Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 72,000 respectively towards urgent repairs to the banks of the Mansar Talao at Viramgam and for the acquisition of modern buildings in front of the tomb of Ahmedshah I and Juma Masjid at Ahmedabad.

The Archæological Department carried out, besides other works, special repairs to the Caves at Bhamburda and Nanaghat in the Poona District, Elephanta (Gharapuri) in the Kolaba District, and Jogeshvari in the Bombay Suburban District ; to Galtesvara Mahadeva temple at Sarnal in Kaira District ; and to the Faria Bagh Palace in the Ahmednagar District.

The Public Works Department also executed important special repairs to the Raipur Gate in the city walls of Ahmedabad, the Mansar Tank at Viramgam, the Khan Masjid at Dholka in the Ahmedabad District ; Sri Shivaji's Samadhi at Raigarh in the Ratnagiri District ; the Gol Gumbaz, Masa Bavadi, the Asar Mahal at Bijapur and Water Pavilion at Kumatgi in the Bijapur District.

The total expenditure on conservation against the allotments referred to above came to Rs.1,04,700 including agency charges paid to the Bombay Government.

Three fine ancient temples in one compound together with five ancient *ghats* standing on the bank of the river Godavari just at its confluence with the Pravara in the village Toka, Taluka Nevasa, District Ahmednagar, representing a distinct type of Hindu architecture which was in vogue during the 15th and 16th century A.D. at the time of Nizam Shahi and

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT : JOGESVARI CAVE NEAR ANDHERI—WEST ENTRANCE [*To face page 220*

Adil Shahi, Kings of Ahmednagar and Bijapur respectively, were brought on the central list of protected monuments.

During the year under review archæological excavations in connection with the exploration of the ruins which lie buried under the mounds at Mohen-jo-daro situated about four to five miles from the present bank of the Indus and about eight miles from Dokri, a railway station on the North Western Railway, in the Larkana District of Upper Sind, were continued by the Deputy Director General for Exploration under the general supervision of the Director General of Archæology in India. Out of an area of about 250 acres which covers these ruins, only 13 acres have so far been uncovered. Traces of no less than six strata of buildings have been revealed by digging trial trenches and shafts to an average depth of thirty feet beneath the level of the surrounding alluvial plain. The heights of the several structures built of bricks, exposed to view, range from 20′ to 60′ above the plain. The date of these pre-historic buildings at Mohen-jo-daro, which belongs to the Chalcolithic age, has been fixed between 3500 B.C. and 2500 B.C. Seals inscribed with pictographic legends have been recovered in hundreds. The art of this civilisation at Mohen-jo-daro excelled in many respects those of the Elamites of Persia or Sumerians of the Euphrates valley or the Egyptians of the Nile valley. Out of the total grant allotted to the Western Circle for works during the year, a sum of Rs. 26,000, including agency charges, was utilised by the Bombay Government in the Public Works Department in constructing the necessary quarters for officers and other buildings required for these famous excavations.

A sum of Rs. 42,400 was spent on the upkeep of the Office of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Western Circle, during the year 1926-1927.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

THE Church Establishments maintained by the State in the Presidency are those of the Established Church of England and the Established Church of Scotland. Certain allowances are also granted by Government to the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church for ministrations to troops, etc.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Since 1837 Bombay has been a separate Diocese.

The Diocese includes the territories within the limits of the Presidency of Bombay excepting Sind, which was transferred to the Diocese of Lahore in 1877.

The Right Reverend Edwin James Palmer, M.A., D.D., Bishop of Bombay, proceeded on deputation to England in connection with the Indian Church Bill and Measure on the 1st May 1926 and returned to India on the 6th August 1926. He was in India till the 5th February 1927 on which day he again proceeded to England on eight months' leave.

The Assistant Bishop, the Right Reverend P. H. Loyd, M.A., held Confirmation on behalf of the Bishop of Bombay during the latter's absence in England on the 16th March 1927 at St. Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay.

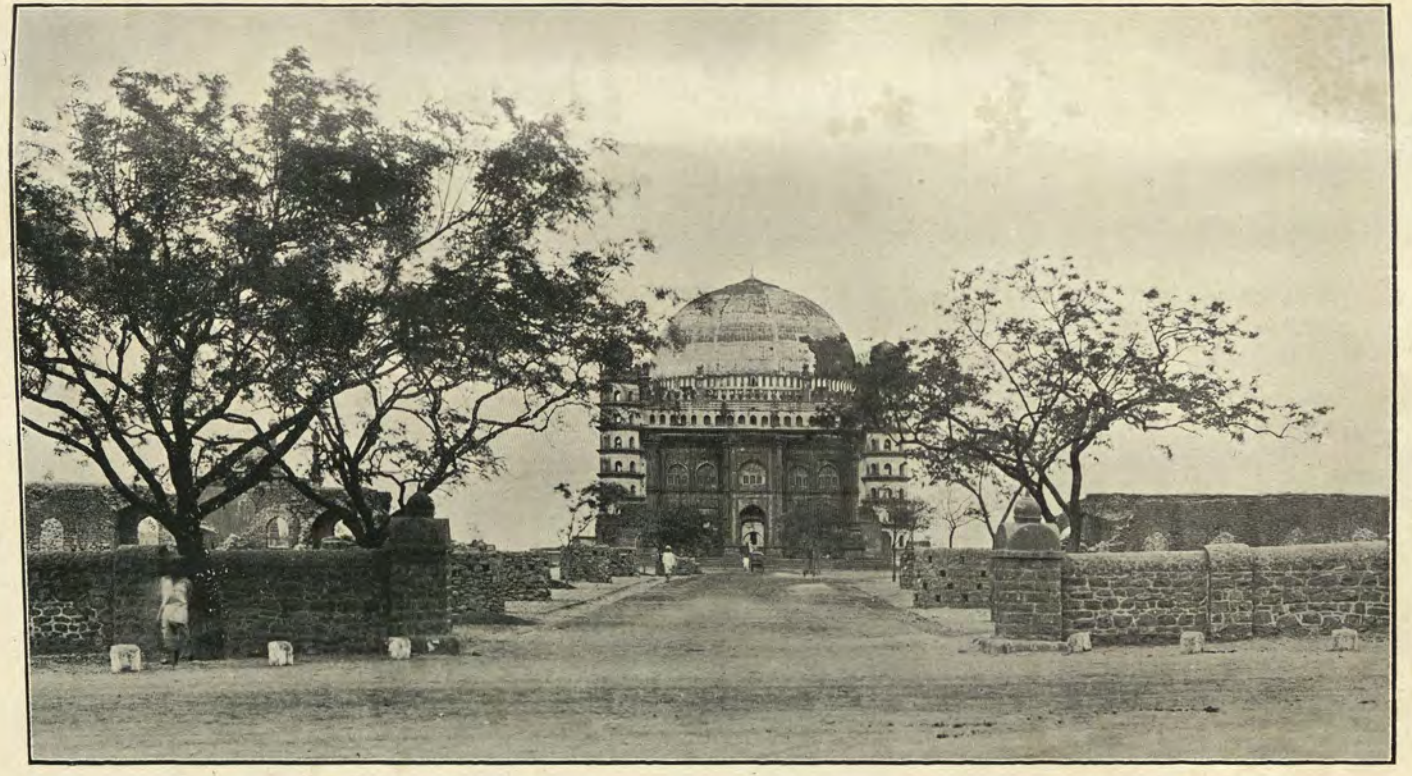
The Venerable W. F. M. Hamerton, M.A., J.P., Archdeacon of Bombay, was on duty throughout the year.

The year opened with 15 Chaplains on duty and three on leave. At the close of the year 14 Chaplains were on duty and four on leave.

The new cemetery at Godhra was consecrated. The Bishop held 19 confirmations during the year, the number of persons confirmed being 653 as against 712 in the previous year.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Church of Scotland in this Presidency was placed on its present basis in 1837. Of the 5 Chaplains holding appointments on the Bombay cadre of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, Church of Scotland, at the close of the year, two are Senior Chaplains and three Junior Chaplains. Two



BIJAPUR—GOLGUMBAZ, SHOWING MAIN ENTRANCE GATE IN THE COMPOUND WALL—
VIEW FROM SOUTH

[*To face page 222*

Chaplains—one Senior and one Junior—were on leave at the close of the year under report.

There are at present five Presbyterian Churches and several other buildings used for Divine service scattered throughout the Presidency of Bombay.

The Reverend G. C. Macpherson, O.B.E., M.A., B.D., J.P., was confirmed Presidency Senior Chaplain, Bombay, on 1st November 1926 and continued in the office throughout the year.

During 1926-27, St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, and the churches at Quetta, Poona, Kirkee and Karachi were served by chaplains on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment of the Church of Scotland. At Mhow the duties were performed by a Missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission of Central India, at Belgaum by a Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Nasirabad and Aden by a Missionary of the United Free Church of Scotland and at Deesa and Mount Abu by a Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church. All chaplains and acting chaplains of the Church of Scotland minister to His Majesty's Forces and Civilians.

STATIONERY

The move from Poona in the previous year and the concentration of the Office and Stores under one roof at Charni Road Gardens, Bombay, gave an opportunity of introducing improved methods and labour-saving appliances, which began to bear fruit during the period under report and encourages the hope that all the time and energy expended will, in future years, increase and multiply the economy and efficiency of the Department. Compared with the previous year, a large number of type-writing machines were repaired, only 48 machines being entrusted to outside firms.

Contracts for the supply of paper were entrusted to three Indian Mills, the main portion going to Bombay and Poona. The Deccan Paper Mills, Poona, received the contract for Cream Laid, Messrs. D. Pudumjee & Co., Bombay, for Badami paper, and the Titaghar Paper Mills, Calcutta, for white Printing paper. The total consumption of the papers at Government Presses was nearly Rs. 3½ lakhs as against Rs. 3 lakhs.

PRINTING

Government Central Press, Bombay.—The outturn for 1926-27 compared favourably with that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8·12 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 23,000 over the preceding year, and the cost of paper, binding and rubber stamp materials was Rs. 95,000. Hand

composition, Multigraph section, Insetting, Hand-Sewing, Paging and Embossing showed a noticeable fall of outturn, whereas Pressing, Machine-Sewing, Eyeletting and Rubber Stamps went up remarkably.

Yeravda Prison Press, Poona.—The outturn of the year increased by about 5½ per cent. though the cost of production went up by only 1¾ per cent. The total value of the work done was nearly Rs. 5¼ lakhs.

Commissioner in Sind's Press, Karachi.—The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 1·82 lakhs against Rs. 1·70 lakhs, while the total expenditure was Rs. 1·32 lakhs against Rs. 1·26 lakhs in the previous year.

Government Book Depot, Bombay.—The total value of the maps issued rose from Rs. 3,373 to Rs. 4,388 during the year and realisations from the sales of Government Publications amounted to Rs. 39,345 against Rs. 19,400.

Government Photozinco Press, Poona.—The total cost of work turned out by the Press was Rs. 1,17,000.

BOMBAY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BACK BAY RECLAMATION SCHEME

During the year under report three Committees were appointed to investigate and report on certain features of the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme. The first of the three committees, which consisted entirely of engineers, was appointed in 1926 under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Neilson, Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, to check and revise the estimates on which the conclusions of the Advisory Committee, which issued its report in January 1926, had, to a large extent, been based. The second committee, presided over by Mr. (now Sir) Joseph Kay, was appointed in June 1926, the terms of reference being " Having regard to the financial position of the scheme, to consider and report to Government as to what, if any, further portion of the scheme can be undertaken with reasonable prospect of reducing the present loss and specially with reference to Blocks 1 and 2."

In July 1926 the Government of India appointed a committee of enquiry, presided over by Sir Grimwood Mears, for the purpose of enquiring into the history of the inception and conduct of the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and to make recommendations as regards future operations.

The Report of the Mears Committee was published early in 1927. It pointed out that the object of the scheme was to reclaim

from the sea an area of 1,145 acres at an estimated outlay of about Rs. 367 lakhs. A revised estimate for Rs. 702 lakhs was approved within two years of the original sanction, and if the scheme was to be completed, the total cost would approximate to about Rs. 900 lakhs exclusive of interest charges. This total sum would be reduced by Rs. 256 lakhs to be received from the Military Authorities, and any other subsequent receipts from sales of land. The programme of reclamation which was to have been completed by 1926-27 had completely broken down, and, if it was continued under present conditions, could not be finished for many years to come. Land reclaimed could not in the near future be sold at remunerative prices, and care should be exercised not to reclaim land in advance of demand. The difficulties in which the scheme was involved arose from

(1) The unsatisfactory character of the estimates,
(2) Defective organisation,
(3) The failure of the dredging operations, and
(4) The fall in land values.

The defects in the various estimates would have been avoided if there had been sufficient and careful preliminary investigation. The organization and arrangements for the conduct of the scheme were almost unworkable. Responsibility was not clearly defined between the Consulting Engineers and the Director of Development. The inability of the Dredger to give the required output had been the chief cause of failure and had had a disastrous effect on the financial prospects of the scheme.

With regard to future operations, the following recommendations were made :—

(1) For financial reasons the completion of Block 8 was a most urgent work. The foreshore portions along Blocks 3, 4, 5 and 6 should be filled in to an average width of 300 feet seaward of the present shore line and brought up to the ground level of the reclamation.

(2) A complete lay-out of the area to be reclaimed should be prepared and the foreshore strip should be developed as soon as completed, and Blocks 1, 2 and 7, gradually as land was taken up.

(3) The Corporation of Bombay should share the cost of development and Government should arrive at an understanding with the Corporation on this point.

(4) The work should, in future, as far as possible, be carried out by Contract Agency.

(5) Every endeavour should be made to complete the scheme proposed in 3 or 4 years, and, when a demand arises

for the completion of the whole of the reclamation, the work may be carried out by murum filling exclusively.

The Mears' Committee had previously submitted an *ad interim* report to Government, regarding the next season's work, and it was decided by Government to continue the reclamation of Blocks 1 and 8 during the ensuing working season and to proceed with dredging from the Harbour into Block 7.

As a result of the blinding of the rubble mound under the sea-wall and also sealing of the cross bunds with murum thus making area 8 virtually a water-tight compartment, practically all of the material pumped into the area was retained and by the end of 1925-26 season it was found that the area had been filled with dredged material as high as it was possible to do so without raising the retaining banks on three sides well above the level of the original foreshore. It was, therefore, decided not to resume pumping in block 8 but to carry the pipe line No. 1 into block No. 7, through No. 8, complete the latter by means of dry filling and pump into No. 7. Pumping operations were commenced on the 18th October 1926 working two shifts of 12 hours each per day. On the 23rd December 1926, whilst the dredger " Sir George Lloyd " was working, the main pumping engines raced badly, seriously damaging the cylinders and other parts to such an extent as to render the vessel entirely unworkable.

A much better output was attained by the " Sir George Lloyd " this year than in any previous year, the average output per pumping hour being 1,556 cubic yards. Had the breakdown not occurred, block No. 7 would have been completed, so far as dredged filling was concerned, during the first week in February 1927.

In order to complete the pumped filling in block No. 7 during the season 1926-27, the dredger " Kalu " was brought round from Back Bay where she was pumping into block No. 1 and commenced pumping in the harbour in conjunction with the " Colaba " as an intermediate pumping station on the 24th of January 1927. By the middle of May 1926 the filling of block 7 with dredged material had been completed, the total quantity of material dredged by both the " Sir George Lloyd " and the " Kalu " being 2,033,335 cubic yards. Block 7 will be allowed to dry out till October 1928 when its completion with a murum topping will be undertaken.

About 880,000 tons (or cubic yards) of dry filling were brought in during the year, the costs working out to about Rs. 1·3 per cubic yard. Of this, some 699,400 tons (or cubic yards) was put into block 8, the balance being distributed in blocks 1 and 7.

An area of approximately 20 acres was levelled off by the middle of February 1927 in readiness to hand over to the military authorities in advance of the rest. In addition to the dry filling brought in by trains about 110,200 cubic yards of building rubbish, etc., were collected by motor lorries during the year and tipped into block 1 at a cost of about Re. 0-10-2 per cubic yard. Up to the end of March 1927 an area of about 80,000 square yards had been filled by this method in this block.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

During the year 1925-26 all the 207 chawls in four different areas, namely, DeLisle Road, Naigaum, Worli and Sewri had been completed in all respects, including water-supply, sewerage, storm-water drainage and lighting. During the year, twenty-five new chawls were thrown open for occupation by the working classes.

At Worli five of the chawls newly opened were let *en bloc* to the B. B. & C. I. Railway for housing the employees of the loco-shops at Parel.

Rents were reduced during the year and range from Rs. 9-8-0 at DeLisle Road to Rs. 7 at Naigaum and Rs. 5 at Worli. These reductions have had a marked effect in increasing tenancies, which were 5,965 at the end of the year as against 3,396 in the preceding year. The collection of rents was also satisfactory, the percentage being 98 against 84 in the previous year. The aggregate amount collected during the year was Rs. 4,94,286 against a demand of Rs. 5,04,102.

On account of the large number of vacant tenements, a chawl at Naigaum and another at DeLisle Road were converted into two and three-roomed tenements, with separate water taps for the accommodation of better-paid workmen. The chawl at Naigaum appeared likely at first to be popular but it later became evident that there was no demand for the three-roomed tenements. The chawl is now let as two-roomed tenements with the odd rooms let singly. At DeLisle Road the converted chawl lay vacant for several months and so far is not well let. The demand for shops in the chawls is good at Worli and DeLisle Road.

During the years 1923-24, 1924-25 and 1925-26, there was a great accumulation of arrears of rent due partly to recalcitrancy arising out of the effects of the Rent Act, partly to two mill strikes and partly to other causes. These arrears were borne on the rent registers long after the parties owing them had disappeared. The writing off of these arrears was undertaken in the previous year and during the year under report a total sum of Rs. 1,91,343 was written off as irrecoverable.

SUBURBAN SCHEMES

Activities in departmental schemes in the suburban area were at a standstill during the year except for water-supply schemes and such roads as it was necessary to construct to supply the demand for plots for residential purposes at Khar and Chembur.

A total area of 42,700 square yards valued at Rs. 2,37,880 and distributed over the various schemes namely, Chembur, Danda, Khar Model Suburb, Chapel Road, Bandra and Kirol North, was disposed of during the year.

The State-aided building scheme continued to encourage the purchase of plots in Suburban Scheme No. VII—Khar. The number of persons who availed themselves of the scheme was 34, and the total amount advanced on lands and buildings was Rs. 2,25,137 against 33 and Rs. 2,85,215, respectively, in the year 1925-26.

RAILWAY SCHEMES

Suburban Scheme No. 17 (Central Salsette Railway).—The overhead bridge at Kurla was completed by the G. I. P. Railway and the approaches to it by the Development Department. The negotiations for the transfer of this railway to the G. I. P. Railway have been completed and sanctioned by the Government of India since the end of the year under report.

Suburban Scheme No. 22 (Kurla-Trombay Railway).—The Kurla-Trombay Railway, along with all works done and land acquired, was handed over during the year to the G. I. P. Railway on the basis of the agreement approved by Government. The G. I. P. Railway is now in charge of the whole of this line from Kurla Station to Mandala.

MILITARY (INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES)

Auxiliary Force (India).—The Auxiliary Force (India) units in the Bombay Presidency are more or less up to establishments and experience no difficulty in maintaining their numbers.

Indian Territorial Force.—The 1st (Bombay) Battalion, University Training Corps is well up to authorised strength and camp was well attended.

The attendance at parade of members of the Indian Territorial Force Units in Bombay was unsatisfactory.

The 11th/5th Mahratta Light Infantry is making satisfactory progress.

Karachi Corps Auxiliary Force.—The progress and enthusiasm of the European and Anglo-Indian members of the Corps was most satisfactory.

More entries were received for the Rifle Meeting in early October than for any previous meeting in the history of the Corps, and its team carried off the "Buchanan Cup" against 17 competing teams from all units in the Brigade Area, including the Royal Navy.

The annual camp from 20th to 25th October had a record attendance.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Bombay and Karachi Societies.—During the year 1926 the Agents of the Society in Bombay City prosecuted in 16,836 cases of cruelty to animals. In 15,522 cases fines were inflicted, in 182 cases the offenders were fined or in default sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, in 760 the accused were warned and discharged, and in 327 the accused were acquitted. 1,960 animals were sent to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals for treatment, while 2 animals in cruelty cases and 260 other animals sent from the Hospital and found to be suffering from incurable diseases were sent to the Pinjrapole at Bombay. In Bandra there were 555 prosecutions, fines being inflicted in all cases. The whole of the fines levied in cruelty cases prosecuted by the Society's Agents are given to the Society after deducting certain charges. The amount thus received by the Society in 1926 was Rs. 45,030, out of the total receipts of Rs. 46,320. The expenditure was Rs. 62,785.

In Karachi there were 2,948 cases of cruelty to animals prosecuted by the Inspectors of the Society and 2,904 convictions were obtained. The total realisations from fines by the Society's Karachi Branch including arrears of the previous year were Rs. 11,551.

ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS*

Northern Division.—The total amount advanced as takavi totalled Rs. 12·44 lakhs as against Rs. 61,543 during the previous year. The increase was due to the large advances made during the last two months of the year ending September 30th for the resowing of Kharif crops destroyed or damaged by the heavy rains at the end of July 1927. Out of the total outstandings of Rs. 17·66 lakhs at the beginning of the year, Rs. 4·41 lakhs were recovered and Rs. 25,530 were suspended.

Central Division.—The amount advanced increased from Rs. 2·71 lakhs to Rs. 3·96 lakhs. The year opened with the outstanding balance of Rs. 37·98 lakhs of which Rs. 10·13 lakhs were collected and Rs. 1·17 lakhs were suspended.

* This note was received too late for inclusion in Chapter V.

Southern Division.—The year opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 15·48 lakhs. Advances and collections during the year amounted to Rs. 4·43 lakhs and Rs. 1·99 lakhs respectively. One thousand five hundred and fifty-six takavi works at Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar were in progress.

Sind.—Takavi advances amounted to Rs. 7·15 lakhs against Rs. 1·85 lakhs in the previous year. The increase was shared by the Sukkur, Karachi, Hyderabad and Thar Parkar Districts and was due to liberal grants in the flooded areas necessitated by the widespread destruction caused by the phenomenal rainfall towards the end of the year. The total outstandings amounted to Rs. 17·84 lakhs, of which Rs. 4·01 lakhs were collected.

It should be noted that the figures for outstandings and collections do not mean that the amount was due for collection during the year. They represent the total amount of advances outstanding but not necessarily due for collection in the year under review.

APPENDIX I

RESERVED SUBJECTS

(1) Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power.
(2) Land Revenue Administration.
(3) Famine Relief.
(4) Land Acquisition.
(5) Administration of Justice.
(6) Provincial Law Reports.
(7) Administrator-General and Official Trustee.
(8) Non-judicial stamps ; judicial stamps.
(9) Development of mineral resources which are Government property.
(10) Industrial matters, included under the following heads :—
  (*a*) Factories ;
  (*b*) Settlement of labour disputes ;
  (*c*) Electricity ;
  (*d*) Boilers ;
  (*e*) Gas ;
  (*f*) Smoke Nuisances ; and
  (*g*) Welfare of labour and housing.
(11) Ports (with certain exceptions).
(12) Inland water-ways, including shipping and navigation, not declared central subjects.
(13) Police, including railway police.
(14) (*a*) Regulation of betting and gambling ;
  (*b*) Prevention of cruelty to animals ;
  (*c*) Protection of wild birds and animals ;
  (*d*) Control of poisons ;
  (*e*) Control of motor vehicles ; and
  (*f*) Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs.
(15) Control of newspapers, books and printing presses.
(16) Coroners.
(17) Excluded Areas.
(18) Criminal Tribes.
(19) European vagrancy.
(20) Prisons, prisoners (except State prisoners) and reformatories.
(21) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
(22) Treasure trove.
(23) Provincial Government Presses.
(24) Elections, Indian and Provincial.
(25) Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
(26) Local Fund Audit.

(27) Control of members of all-India and provincial services serving within the province and control of public services within the province other than all-India services.

(28) Sources of provincial revenue—

(*a*) taxes included in the Schedules to the Scheduled Taxes Rules, or

(*b*) taxes, not included in those Schedules, which are imposed by or under provincial legislation which has received the previous sanction of the Governor General.

(29) Borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province.

TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS

(1) Local Self-Government (except Cantonments).

(2) Medical administration.

(3) Public health, sanitation and vital statistics.

(4) Pilgrimages within British India.

(5) Education (with some exceptions).

(6) Public Works—

(*a*) Construction and maintenance of provincial buildings.

(*b*) Roads, bridges, ferries, etc.

(*c*) Tramways within municipal areas.

(*d*) Light and feeder-railways and extra-municipal tramways for which provision is made by provincial legislation.

(7) Agriculture.

(8) Civil Veterinary Department.

(9) Fisheries.

(10) Co-operative Societies.

(11) Forests.

(12) Excise.

(13) Registration of deeds and documents.

(14) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.

(15) Religious and Charitable Endowments.

(16) Development of industries, including industrial research and technical education.

(17) Stores and stationery required for transferred Departments.

(18) Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles.

(19) Weights and measures.

(20) Libraries, museums and exhibitions (with certain exceptions).

(21) Historical monuments (with certain exceptions).

(22) Town planning and development in municipal areas (except cases dealing with the Bombay City and Suburban Division).

APPENDIX II

List of Official Reports used in the compilation of this Volume.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

Annual Reports of the Indian States referred to in the Chapter and of Aden for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER II

LAND RECORDS

Annual Report of the Department of Land Records in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind), Report of the Collector and Talukdari Settlement Officer, Ahmedabad, and the Report on the Administration of Incumbered Estates in Sind for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Bombay Presidency and Sind and Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the year 1926, Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

Annual Reports on the Bombay District Police and the Bombay City Police, Administration Reports on Government Workhouses, Administration Report of the Bombay Jail Department and the Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1926.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The Season and Crop Report of the Bombay Presidency, the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Land Revenue Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Forests, Note on the Weather of the Bombay Presidency and the Annual Report of the Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona, for the year 1926-27.

APPENDICES

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1926-27, Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency and Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act for the year 1926, Report on the Administration of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Department, Annual Report of the Bombay Smoke Nuisances Commission, Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Report on the Trade and Navigation of the Port of Aden and Annual Reports on Shipping Offices, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay for the year 1926, Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries for the year 1926-27, Annual Report of the Haffkine Institute and Report on Mental Hospitals for the year 1926, Report on Vaccination in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1926-27, Annual Reports of the Chemical Analysers to Government, Bombay and Sind, for the year 1926, and Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in the Bombay Presidency including Sind for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure for the Bombay Presidency including Sind, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Annual Report on Local Boards in the Bombay Presidency, Administration Report of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust and Annual Reports on Port Trusts, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER X

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Salt Department of the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Reports on the Administration of the

Excise Department in the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Annual Report of the Stamp Department in the Bombay Presidency and Sind, and the Annual Report on Income Tax for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

Report of the Director of Public Instruction in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1926-27, Report of the Reformatory School at Yeravda and the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) for the year 1926, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay and the Annual Report of the Victoria Museum, Karachi, for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

Progress Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Western Circle, for the year 1926-27.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Administration Reports for the Diocese of Bombay and of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Government Printing and Stationery, and the Report on the working of the Development Department for the year 1926-27, and the Annual Reports of the Bombay and Karachi Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the years 1926 and 1926-27 respectively.

APPENDIX III

1926-27

GOVERNOR

His Excellency Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Resumed charge of his office on 11th June 1926.)

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Henry S. Lawrence, K.C.S.I. (Acting.)

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, Kt., K.C.S.I. . .	Finance Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Junior), K.C.I.E., O.B.E.	General Member.
The Honourable Mr. J. L. Rieu, C.S.I.	Revenue Member.
The Honourable Mr. J. E. B. Hotson, C.S.I., O.B.E. . .	Home Member.

MINISTERS

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, Kt.	Local Self-Government.
The Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav. (Vacated office, 2nd January 1927.) The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Harilal Desaibhai Desai. (Took his seat, 3rd January 1927.)	Education.
The Honourable Mr. Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi. (Vacated office, 2nd January 1927.) The Honourable Dr. Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpye. (From 3rd January 1927 to 17th February 1927.) The Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, Kt. (in addition to his own portfolio). The Honourable Mr. G. B. Pradhan. (Took his seat, 20th February 1927.)	Forests and Excise.

PRESIDENT, BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Ebrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Term expired.)

The Honourable Mr. Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi. (Took his seat, 18th February 1927.)

INDEX

[Parts I and II have separate paging]

	PAGE
ACTS—	
An Act to amend the—	
Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925	22, 23
Bombay Civil Courts Act, 1869..	22
Bombay District Police Act, 1890	21
Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879 ..	22
Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act, 1887	21
Bombay Prevention of Prostitution Act, 1923	22
Cattle Trespass Act, 1871 ..	21
City of Bombay Police Act, 1902 .	23
Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1922	24
Invalidation of Hindu Ceremonial Emoluments Act, 1926 ..	23
Bombay City Municipalities Act, 1925	21
To Consolidate and amend the law relating to the Courts in Sind ..	22
ACWORTH LEPER ASYLUM, MATUNGA	171
ADEN—	
Annual Report	11
Port Trust	184
Salt	200
ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS ..	229
AGRICULTURE—	
Agricultural Economics ..	69
,, Education ..	71
,, Labour	83
,, Population—Condition of —	60
,, Research ..	61
,, Season	50
,, Shows	67, 69
,, Statistics ..	72
Cattle—Improvement in ..	67
Dry-farming	65
Finance	72
Implements	65
Improved tillage	65
Insects and Pests	66
Lac	67
Manuring	66
Poultry	68
Ridge cultivation	66
Sind Experimental Scheme ..	69
Summary of year's work ..	viii, ix
AKALKOT	8
ARBORICULTURE	144
ARCHÆOLOGY	220
ARTS AND SOCIETIES	216
AUNDH	7
AUXILIARY FORCE	228
BACK BAY RECLAMATION ..	224
BALASINOR	3
BANSDA	4
BARIA	3
BHOR	8
BILLS	24
BIRTHS 155, 158,	159
BOMBAY BOILER INSPECTION DEPARTMENT	106
BOMBAY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.	xxiv, 224
BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST ..	180
BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS	i
Parties in—	
All India Congress — ..	i
Bombay Council Nationalists —	ii
Independent — ..	ii
Indian National — ..	i, ii
Liberal —	ii
Non-Brahmin —	ii
Political —	i
Responsive Co-operation — ..	ii
Swaraj —	i, ii
United Nationalists — ..	ii
BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY	176
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY..	218
BOMBAY PORT TRUST	182
BOMBAY UNIVERSITY 207,	209
BOMBAY UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.	228
BOOKS : published in 1926 ..	213
BRAHMIN AND NON-BRAHMIN TENSION.	iii
BUDGET .. .. .. iii,	190
CAMBAY	3
CHEMICAL ANALYSERS	169
CHHOTA UDEPUR	3
CHOLERA	162

	PAGE
COLLECTORS—	
Deputy Collectors	187
District	187, 189
Duties of	189
COMMISSIONERS—	
Divisions	187, 189
Duties of	189
CONCILIATION COMMITTEE ..	iii
CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT—	
Agricultural Credit Societies ..	92
Agricultural Non-credit Societies ..	93
Banks—	
District Central —	95
Provincial Co-operation — ..	94
Urban —	95
Cattle Breeding Societies ..	94
Conference	96
Consumers' Movement ..	95
Co-operative Institute	96
Co-operative Societies	92
Cotton Sale Societies	93
Housing Societies	95
Land Improvement Societies ..	94
Power Pump Societies ..	94
Summary of year's work ..	xxii
Unions	94
Weavers' Societies	96
COURT OF WARDS ACT	14
CRIMINAL TRIBES	49
CRIMINAL TRIBES SETTLEMENTS—	
Baramati	50, 51
Bijapur	51
Dharavi	51
Education	50
Employment	50, 51
Expenditure	51
Gokak Falls	50
Hubli	50, 51
Manual Training	51
Population	49
Rescue Home	51
Scouting	51
Sholapur	51
CROPS—	
Bajri	56
Cotton	57, 59, 62
Cropped area	53, 55
Groundnuts	57, 62
Irrigated area	58
Jowar	56, 64
Oilseeds	57
Rice	56, 59, 62
Sugarcane	57
Tobacco	58, 64
Wheat	56, 59, 64
Nature of — grown in Presidency ..	54
Outturn of —	59

	PAGE
CUSTOMS—	
Administration	196
Bombay	108, 196
Customs Offences	196
Karachi	197
Land	197
Sind	197
DANGS	5
DANTA	2
DEATHS : Causes of ..	157, 158, 159, 161
DECCAN—	
Irrigation	149
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES ..	102
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ..	xxiv, 224
DHARAMPUR	4
DISPENSARIES	162
ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION—	
Church of England	222
Church of Scotland	222
EDUCATION—	
Aden	211
Arts Colleges	209
Bombay Presidency	208
Department of	207
Depressed Classes	211
Expenditure on —	208
High Schools	207
In Arts	209
In Indian States	2-10
Intermediate and Backward Hindus.	211
Jungle, Criminal and Hill Tribes ..	211
Muhammadans	211
Middle Schools	207
Primary Schools	210, 212
Professional Colleges	209
Reformatory Schools	211
School Books Committee ..	208
Secondary	210, 212
Summary of year's work ..	xii
System of — in Presidency ..	207
Technical and Industrial ..	208, 210
Training Institutions	210
Universities	207, 209
EMIGRATION	171
EXCISE—	
Administration of — Department ..	201
Crime	203
Liquor consumption	201
Revenue	203
Summary of year's work ..	xx
Toddy consumption	201

PAGE

FACTORIES ACT—
Accidents 103
Children—Employment of — .. 103
Education 105
Factories 103
Operatives 103
Prosecutions 103
Welfare Work 104

FINANCE iii

FORESTS .. .. .. xx, 89

GOVERNMENT—
Members of Council .. } Appendix III
Ministers .. }

GOVERNMENT BOOK DEPOT, POONA .. 224

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORK-HOUSES 44

GUJARAT TALUKDARS' ACT .. 13

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE 167

HEALTH WEEK 165

HINDU-MOSLEM RIOT ii

HINDU-MOSLEM TENSION .. ii

HORTICULTURE 96

HOSPITALS 162

IDAR 2

IMMIGRATION 171

INCOME TAX 193, 204

INCUMBERED ESTATES IN SIND .. 13

INDIAN STATES 1-10

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEMES—
Bombay 227
Suburban Schemes 228

INDUSTRIES 98-102
(*See* also Department of Industries.)

INFANT MORTALITY 157, 159

INFLUENZA 162

INSTRUCTION (*See* EDUCATION).

IRRIGATED AREA 58

PAGE

IRRIGATION—
Central Circle 149
Deccan and Gujarat 149
Deccan Irrigation Circle .. 149
Eastern Nara Circle 148
Expenditure 145
General 144, 152
General Items 149
Girna and Kadwa River Works .. 151
Godaveri Canal 150
Gokak Canal 152
Indus Left Bank Circle .. 146
Indus Right Bank Circle .. 146
Indus River Commission .. 147
Investigation Work 152
Irrigation Works 152
Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction 147
Lloyd Barrage Circle 148
Mhaswad Tank 151
Mutha Canal 150
Nira Left Bank Canal 150
Nira Right Bank Canal .. 151
Nira Valley Development Project .. 151
Northern Circle 149
North-Western Circle .. 148
Pravara River Works 151
Rohri Canal Circle 148
Sind 146
Southern Circle 152
Western Circle 148

JAILS—
Accommodation 47
Discipline 47
Expenditure 48
Health 47
Industries 48
Population 45
Religious instruction 48

JAFRABAD 6

JAMKHANDI 9

JANJIRA 6

JATH 8

JAWHAR 5

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES .. 31

JUSTICE—
Administration of 26
Civil 27
Criminal 29
Criminal Courts 27
High Court 26
Mofussil Court 27
Small Causes Courts 27
Sind 29
Summary of year's work .. xiii

	PAGE
KARACHI CORPS AUXILIARY FORCE ..	228
KARACHI PORT TRUST	184
KHAIRPUR	10
KOLHAPUR	8
KURUNDWAD (JUNIOR)	9
KURUNDWAD (SENIOR)	9
LABOUR—	
Agricultural	83
Skilled	88
Unskilled	86
LAND RECORDS—	
Department of	14
Functions	12, 14
Organisation of	12
Routine Measurement Work ..	15
LAND REVENUE	196
LAW	xiii, 20
LEGISLATION	21
LEGISLATIVE	20
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—	
Acts passed by	21
Bills before	24
Budget	25
Composition of	19
General Election	26
President	Appendix III
Powers of	20
Resolutions	20, 25
LITERARY SOCIETIES	216
LITERATURE AND PRESS	213, 215
LOAN ACCOUNTS	193
LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT—	
Local Boards—	
District Boards	164, 179
Duties of	178
Expenditure of	179
Membership	179
Powers of	178
Taluka Boards	179
Municipalities—	
Bombay	176
Duties and Powers of ..	173
Functions and duties of ..	173
Income and Expenditure ..	174
Municipal Boroughs ..	173
Municipalities	164, 173
Taxation in	174
LUNAVADA	3
MAHI KANTHA	2
MALARIA	162
MENTAL HOSPITALS	170
MILITARY	228
MIRAJ (JUNIOR)	9
MIRAJ (SENIOR)	9
MUDHOL	9
MUSEUMS	217, 219
NEWSPAPERS: Statistics relating to ..	215
NOTIFIED AREAS	159
PERIM	11
PHALTAN	7
PILGRIM CENTRES	164
PLAGUE	161
POL	2
POLICE—	
Aden	44
Bombay City	40
Cost	40, 43, 44
Criminal Investigation	34
Finger Print Bureau	34
Mofussil	34
Organization of	33
Railway	34
Sind	34
Summary of year's work ..	xv, xvi
Village	43
POLITICAL SUMMARY	i
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS—	
Bombay and Karachi Societies ..	229
PRICES	76
PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA	217
PRINTING—	
Commissioner in Sind's Press, Karachi	224
Government Central Press, Bombay.	223
Government Photozinco Press, Poona	224
Yeravda Prison Press, Poona ..	224

	PAGE
PUBLIC GARDENS—	
Bombay Municipal Gardens ..	96
Bund Gardens, Poona ..	97
Empress Gardens, Poona ..	96
PUBLIC HEALTH ..	xviii, 155
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES ..	164
PUBLIC WORKS—	
Administration	142
Arboriculture	144
Architecture	143
Central Workshops, Dapuri ..	143
Coast Erosion and Protection ..	142
Communications	143
Electrical	143
History of — Department ..	142
Miscellaneous	144
Revenue	196
Road Boards	143
Summary of year's work ..	xxiii
RAILWAYS—	
Central Salsette	228
General	153
Kurla-Trombay	228
RAJPIPLA	2
RAMDURG	9
RECORD OF RIGHTS	12
REGISTRATION	30
RENT ACTS—	
Aden	186
Bombay	185
Bombay Suburban District ..	185
Karachi	185
Poona	185
Thana	185
Working of	185
RESOLUTIONS. (*See* "Legislative Council")	20, 25
REVENUE—	
Administration of — Department ..	187
Collection	187
Divisions and Districts ..	187
Land	196
Public Works	196
REWA KANTHA	2
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY ..	216
SACHIN	4
SALT—	
Aden	200
Bombay	198
Revenue	198, 200
Sind	199
Sources of	198, 199
Summary of year's work ..	xix
SANGLI	9
SANITARY BOARDS	159
SANITATION	164
SANT	3
SATARA JAGHIRS	7
SAVANTVADI	7
SAVANUR	9
SEA-BORNE TRADE	106
SETTLEMENT: REVISION OF ..	16
SHIPPING OFFICES	140
SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES.	9
SMALL-POX	162
STAMPS	204
STATIONERY	223
SUPER TAX	196
SURGANA	5
SURVEYS—	
City	12, 17
Revision	16
TAKAVI. (*See* "Advances to Cultivators.")	
TAXES ON INCOME	204
TERRITORIAL FORCE	228
TEXTILES—	
Exports	122
Imports	116
TRADE AND COMMERCE—	
Aden	
Coasting	
Exports	
Foreign	
Imports	
Indian Produce and Manufactures	vi,
Presidency proper	106-140
Shipping	
Sind	
Subordinate Ports	
Trade according to countries ..	

	PAGE
Trade and Industries	98
Vaccination	165
Venomous Snakes : Deaths from ..	169
Veterinary	168
Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay	216
Victoria Museum, Karachi ..	219
Village Baby Scheme	165
Village Panchayats	164
Village Sanitation	164
Vital Statistics and Medical Relief.	155
Wages	80
Wards and other Estates ..	13, 14
Waste Lands	18
Weather : Note on	72
Wild Animals—Deaths from ..	169
Workmen's Compensation Act ..	105
Yeravda Reformatory	212

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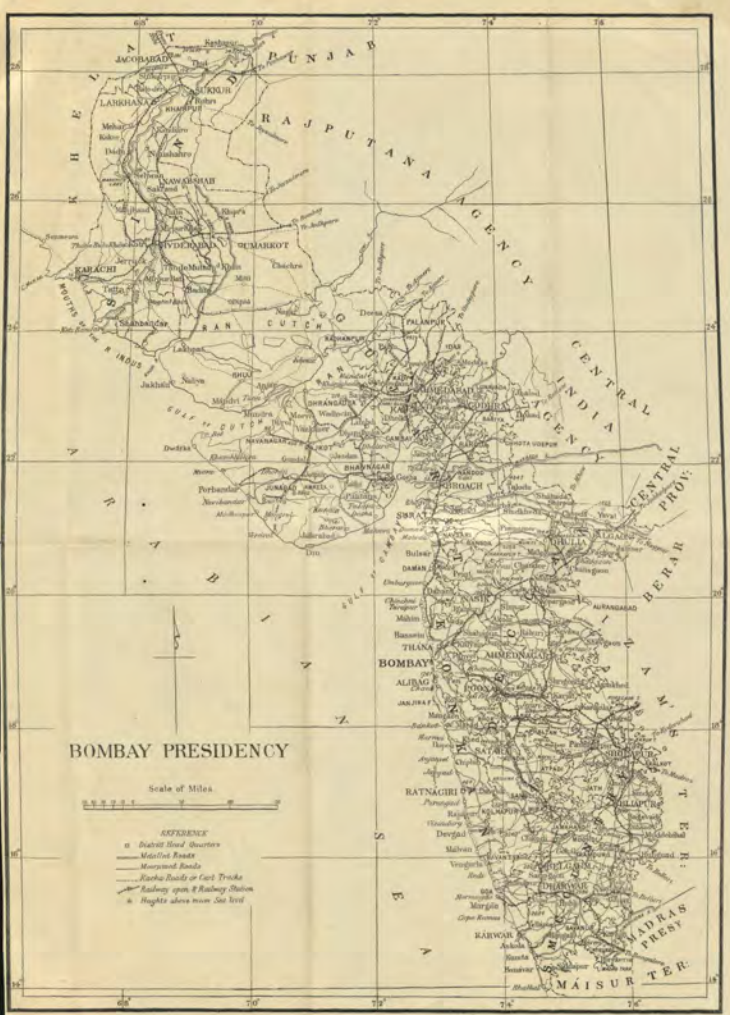
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY
Scale of Miles
REFERENCE
Bombay
Surat
Ahmedabad
Poona
Sholapur
Belgaum
Dharwar
Karwar
Ratnagiri
Kolhapur
Satara
Thana
Nasik
Ahmednagar
Aurangabad
Khandesh
Baroda
Cutch
Kathiawar
Sind
Punjab
Rajputana Agency
Central India Agency
Berar
Central Provs.
Hyderabad
Madras Presy.
Mysore
Arabian Sea
Gulf of Cutch
Gulf of Cambay
Indus R.
Karachi
Hyderabad
Jacobabad
Sukkur
Larkhana
Shikarpur
Khairpur
Umarkot
Thar & Parkar
Nawanagar
Bhavnagar
Porbandar
Junagadh
Jamnagar
Dwarka
Mandvi
Rann of Cutch
Palanpur
Deesa
Radhanpur
Mehsana
Kadi
Dholka
Viramgam
Cambay
Broach
Rajpipla
Dharampur
Surgana
Peint
Jawhar
Mokhada
Shahapur
Murbad
Kalyan
Panvel
Pen
Alibag
Janjira
Mahim
Bassein
Bulsar
Daman
Umbergaon
Jalgaon
Dhulia
Nandurbar
Chopda
Amalner
Yeola
Sinnar
Niphad
Igatpuri
Malegaon
Nandgaon
Chandor
Dindori
Kalwan
Baglan
Satana
Manmad
Kopargaon
Sangamner
Akola
Rahuri
Shrigonda
Karjat
Jamkhed
Ashti
Patoda
Parner
Sirur
Indapur
Bhimthadi
Daund
Purandhar
Haveli
Mulshi Peta
Velha
Maval
Khed
Junnar
Ambegaon
Sangola
Karmala
Madha
Barsi
Mohol
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Mahabaleshwar
Jaoli
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Walwa
Tasgaon
Miraj
Kagal
Gargoti
Bhudargad
Ajra
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Sawantvadi
Vengurla
Malvan
Devgad
Ratnagiri
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Dapoli
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Sangameshwar
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Vaibhavwadi
Devgad
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Yellapur
Supa
Haliyal
Dharwar
Kalghatgi
Hubli
Kundgol
Navalgund
Gadag
Ron
Nargund
Bagalkot
Badami
Hungund
Jamkhandi
Mudhol
Ramdurg
Belgaum
Gokak
Athni
Chikodi
Raibag
Hukeri
Parasgad
Kittur
Khanapur
Nipani
Kolhapur
Shahuwadi
Panhala
Hatkanangle
Shirol
Radhanagari
Gaganbawada
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